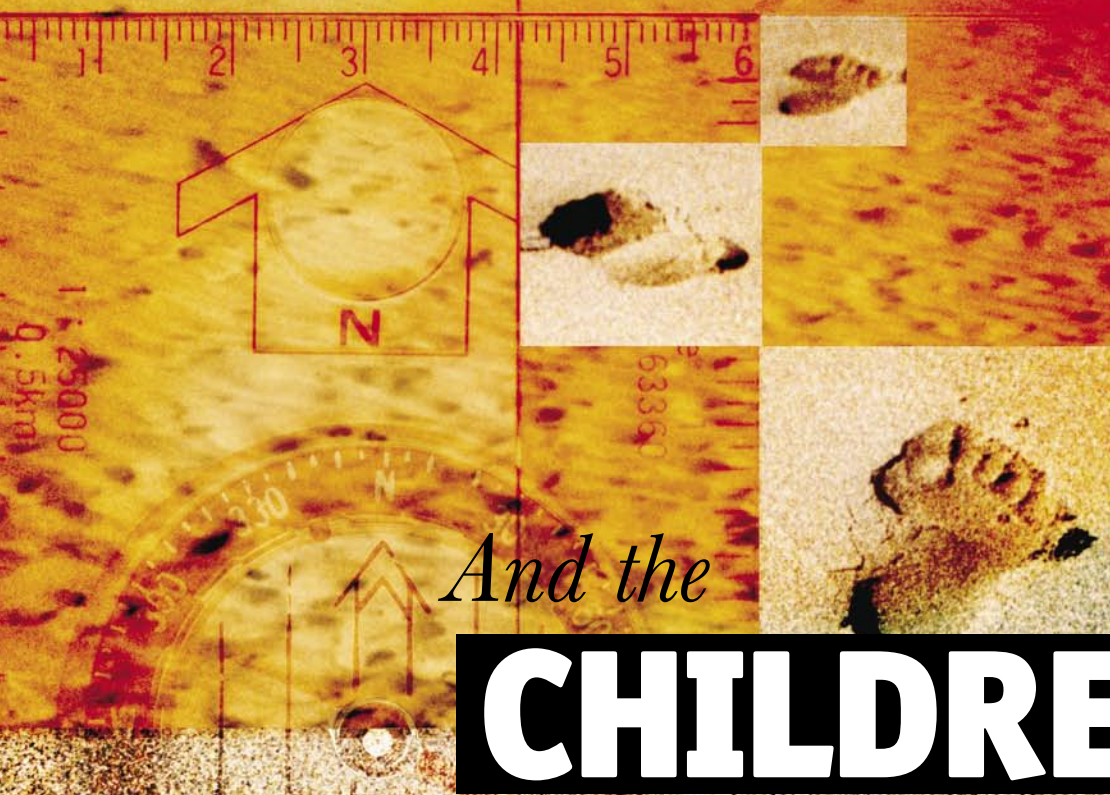


CALIFORNIA 

FREEMASON

Summer 2005



And the

CHILDREN

Shall Lead...

youth and Freemasonry

www.freemason.org

FIFTH ANNUAL
CALIFORNIA MASONIC SYMPOSIUM

FREEMASONRY AND THE

Victorian Era

AUGUST 27, 2005
STANFORD UNIVERSITY

TIME

9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., followed
by banquet and keynote address

SYMPOSIUM FEE

\$69 per person
Banquet fee: \$49 per person

SPECIAL ROOM RATE

Rooms on campus will be available at the SLAC Guest House. Rates are from \$69 for a standard to \$84 for queen bed. Call 650/926-2800. E-mail slacguesthouse@stanford.edu. You must mention the group number 178041 when making reservations. Reservation deadline is July 15. Limited rooms available, reserve early.

The registration form is posted on
www.freemason.org, on the member resources page.

Registration deadline is August 15.

For more information, contact the Grand Lodge office at
symposium@freemason.org.

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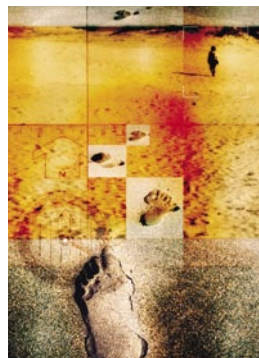
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10 cover story

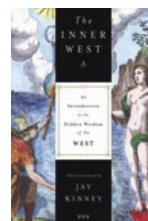
Freemasonry takes a good man and makes him better. The Masonic youth orders are no different. DeMolay, Job's Daughters, and Rainbow for Girls all help youth develop leadership skills and help mold them as a better person. The California Freemason interviewed the top youth leaders in California. Each leader is dedicated to their youth order and to their community. Read what our youth leaders have to say about the influence of Freemasonry in their lives.

For more articles of interest, check out California Freemason Online at www.freemason.org.



5 lodge spotlight

When others say there is nothing to be done, teachers like Barbara Schemm are able to help students in need due to the tools provided by the Masonic Student Assistance Program.



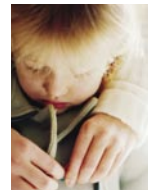
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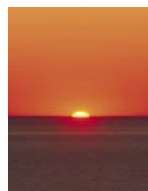
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16 masonic homes

Share a love of reading and learning with the youth at the Masonic Home for Children.



SNAP AWARD!

CALIFORNIA FREEMASON RECEIVES NATIONAL RECOGNITION

The fall 2004 issue, "On the Frontier" was awarded a Bronze SNAP Excel Award for the single topic magazine category. We are proud to announce that the California Freemason was recognized as third best in this nationwide category.

The Grand Lodge of California's Web site www.freemason.org was awarded a Silver SNAP Excel Award for the design excellence category. We are proud to announce that www.freemason.org won second place nationwide for design.

SNAP (Society of National Association Publications) is a non profit, professional society serving membership organizations of many varieties including the American Bar Association, Rotary International, National PTA, and Boy Scouts of America.

Planting for the future

At a recent Masonic youth event I observed Brother Loyal Stark, most worthy grand patron of the General Grand Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star and a past master of Acacia Lodge No. 243 in Hayward, engage the girls in conversation in his own inimitable style with a thought-provoking question. He asked them to use just three words to describe what being a member of the organization meant to them. Their replies had a common thread running through them: The girls used words like friendship, acceptance, loyalty, giving, love, honesty, self-improvement, and service to describe their experience. Sound familiar, brothers?

These are all Masonic values taught to them as part of their involvement in a Masonic youth group. Friendship, acceptance, and loyalty mirror our experience with brotherly love and being on the level; giving and service are manifestations of relief, and honesty and self-improvement are paths to truth. The seed of our values has been planted and is taking root as a result of their membership in the Order of DeMolay, Job's Daughters, or Rainbow for Girls. A testament to that is that for the first time in memory all seven of the elected officers of Grand Lodge are Senior DeMolay.

In the last several issues of California Freemason, our grand master and our deputy grand master both spoke eloquently about the need for more Masonic education, challenging us to inculcate the values we learn through this education into our daily lives.

Every gardener will tell you that planting the seed is only the first step in the healthy growth of the plant. The soil must be enriched and the young seedling nurtured and nourished. The same is true of our youth. Signing a petition is only the beginning: Careful nurturing will result in a robust and strong adult ready to meet the challenges of adulthood with



the confidence to make their daily walk upright and just.

My challenge to you, brethren, is to visit our youth groups' meetings and bring to them a short word of Masonic education.

They are curious about the columns, the apron, the sun, and the steps. Buy tickets to the car washes and pancake breakfasts. Invite the members of Masonic youth organizations to participate in your events—and not just in the kitchen. The future of Freemasonry may lie in the seed you plant. ✧

Richard W. Hopper
Junior Grand Warden

Persis PAYS OFF Persistence

By Alison Steiner Miller

When specialists told Orange County teacher Barbara Schemm that there was nothing they could do to help “Rob,” a boy in her first-grade class who was born without an ear, she believed them. When she had Rob again in the third grade, they said the same thing: “We can’t help him.” But Rob stuck in her mind.

A few years later, Barbara went through Masonic Student Assistance Program (MSAP) training. She returned to her school inspired to find a way to help the boy on whom so many others had given up.

SYMPTOMS OF DISTRESS

When Barbara had Rob in her class she remembers that he was picked on mercilessly. “He was withdrawn and didn’t talk a lot. At recess he would play by himself,” she remembers. As the years passed and classmates continued to humiliate him, it started to affect his personality. “He became very unhappy and angry, and he developed behavior problems in class,” says Barbara. “His self-esteem was very low.” Knowing that the situation would only worsen, Barbara felt powerless to help.

About that time, Barbara had the opportunity to attend MSAP training. Even after almost 20 years of teaching, she says that experience changed her. “MSAP makes you want to dig a little deeper to find a way to keep these kids from falling through the cracks,”

she says. “Because specialists said ‘no’ before, that meant we had to be more aggressive about helping this boy.”

FINDING A SOLUTION

That is when she turned to the Shriners. Her husband, Ron, is a Shriner and retired physician who volunteers his time to run screening clinics for the Shriners Hospitals for Children—a network of hospitals that provides specialized medical care to children under 18 at no cost to their families.

Barbara got permission from Rob’s parents to get him into a screening clinic, and after evaluation, the Los Angeles Shriners Hospital accepted his case. Although doctors were not able to repair Rob’s hearing, they were able to build him an ear. Doctors operated four times over nearly two years, grafting tissue from other parts of Rob’s body in order to construct the ear.

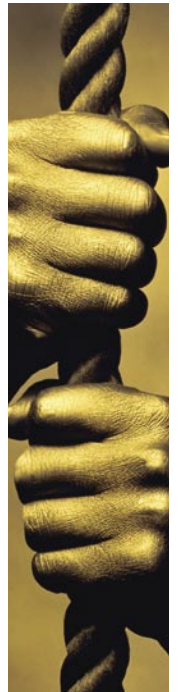
CHANGING LIVES

When Barbara and Ron went to visit Rob in the hospital, Barbara was touched by Rob’s reaction: “He said to me, ‘I can’t believe what you’ve done for me. You’ve changed my whole

life.’ That meant so much to me.” Rob’s 22-year-old brother also expressed gratitude to the Schemms and the Shrine Masons. “He was amazed that people would go out of their way to help his family and expect nothing in return,” says Barbara. “He said that he wants to be part of a group like this, and he plans to join the Masons as soon as he graduates from college.”

Back at school, Barbara saw positive changes in Rob’s personality. “He looked so handsome and he was so proud of his appearance,” she says. “He’s really building self-esteem. This has made a whole new person out of him.”

Barbara points back to her MSAP training as the catalyst in helping turn Rob’s life around. “MSAP opens your eyes,” she says. “We were able to find a way to open up a whole new life for this boy. Without it, I really don’t know what would have happened to him.” ✧



The Scout Oath of the Boy Scouts of America states:

“On my honor,

By Alison Steiner Miller

I will do my best to do my duty to God and my country and to obey the Scout Law; to help other people at all times; to keep myself physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight.”

Considering Freemasonry’s mission and values, it is no wonder that Masonic lodges are partnering with the Scouts to help develop the leadership potential of young men.

Temecula Catalina Island Lodge No. 524 saw an opportunity to help young people in its community by sponsoring three groups of Scouts: Cub Scout Pack No. 318, Boy Scout Troop No. 318, and Cub Scout Pack No. 339. “These are great kids,” says Tom Hafeli, the lodge’s youth coordinator. “They have the same values that we do, and we want to see these programs continue.”

THE PERSONAL CONNECTION

Perhaps the biggest impact the lodge makes on the young men occurs on a personal level. Greg Gray, a former Scout leader who currently acts as the liaison between the Scouts and the lodge, says that the boys learn responsibility and character from the Masons. Lodge members regularly attend Scout meetings, and the master of the lodge is periodically invited to talk about Masonry. “The Scouts really look up to the lodge members,” Gray says. “The Masons are great role models for the boys.”

Scouts are also invited to participate in some of the lodge’s activities. Scouts regularly conduct the flag ceremony at lodge

meetings and other events, carrying in the flag and leading the Pledge of Allegiance. By attending each other’s meetings, says Brother Gray, the Scouts and Masons gain an appreciation for their common values. “The Masons and Scouts enjoy learning from each other,” he says. “They have fun.”

It is not just the boys who are affected by the lodge’s outreach—adult Scout leaders are touched as well. In fact, it was the partnership between the lodge and the Scout groups that led Brother Gray to Masonry. He was a Scout leader when the Masons first began sponsoring the groups five years ago. As the relationship grew and he learned more about the fraternity, he knew he wanted to be a part of it, and was raised to the degree of Master Mason four years ago.

HELPING THE PROGRAMS CONTINUE

Temecula Catalina Island Lodge acts as the charter organization for these three Scout groups. This is an important role, because without a charter the Scout groups cannot exist. In addition to providing seed money and financial support, the lodge screens applicants for leadership, offers lodge facilities for meetings and events, and provides opportunities for lodge members to mentor the boys.

Cub Scout Pack No. 339 holds its regular meetings at the

lodge, but perhaps more importantly (or at least more exciting for the Scouts), the lodge is the site of their annual Pinewood Derby—a big event for Cub Scouts nationwide. The boys build miniature wooden cars to exacting technical specifications and then race them on a special track. Members of the lodge are invited to serve as judges at the event.

Some lodge members have also offered use of their property to the Scouts. For example, Jack Liefer, past master of Temecula Catalina Island Lodge, opened his family's ranch to all Scout groups in the area to use for camping and other outdoor activities. Although Liefer is now deceased, his son is an active member of the lodge and the ranch remains open to the Scouts.

REWARDING OUTSTANDING SERVICE

Perhaps the best-known testament to the connection between Scouts and Masons is the Daniel Carter Beard Masonic Scouter Award. The award is a national recognition of Master Masons who have made outstanding contributions to youth through the Boy Scouts of America.

The award was founded when Brother Kenneth H. Grace of the Grand Lodge of California showed that the fraternity has an unusually high percentage of members from Scouting backgrounds who carry these values throughout their lives. He also found that a majority of Masons who were Scouts in their youth returned to the organization as volunteer leaders. In recognition of Freemasonry's service to youth, the Boy Scouts of America

and the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania created the award in honor of one of the founders of the Boy Scouts, who was also a Mason.

The award is promoted by the Grand Lodges in the United States. In California, the award is presented each year at Annual Communication. Several men from Temecula Catalina Island Lodge won the award a few years ago, in recognition of their commitment to youth in their community.

Scouts and Masons have a lot in common, and the members of Temecula Catalina Island Lodge have developed a rewarding partnership with their local Scouts. The mission of the Boy Scouts of America is "to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes." Indeed, that is what Freemasonry strives for as well. ✧



Boy Scout Troop No. 318 learns responsibility and character from both Scouting and the Masons that sponsor them.



the *Three* **ST**

Usually Delineated Upon the Master's Carpet

John L. Cooper III, Grand Secretary



The long form of the lecture of the third degree is heard infrequently in most California lodges, yet it has some of the most important symbolism of all the degrees. When the long form is not given as a part of the degree, the candidate is advised to study the symbolism in the “Monitor”—a “textbook” of Freemasonry—that he will soon receive. Some newly raised Master Masons do take a look at the “Monitor,” but many do not and therefore miss the explanation of the symbols of the third degree handed down from early times.

One such symbol is The Three Steps, and we are told that it is usually delineated upon the master's carpet. Since a carpet assigned to the master of the lodge fell into disuse many years ago, it is no use looking for The Three Steps on any carpet in the East. A remnant of this symbol, however, is still to be found in the architectural detail of many lodge rooms. The perceptive candidate will note that the junior warden's station is elevated by one step, the senior warden's by two steps, and the master's station



EPS

by three. This architectural detail is now all that remains of a once-powerful symbol of our Masonic teaching about youth, manhood, and old age.

Many symbols of Freemasonry overlap one another due to accidents of history. The stations of the three principal officers of the lodge are but one example. Because we hear it more frequently at the opening of a lodge, we are used to the idea that the east represents the morning of life, the south, the noon of life, and the west, the evening of life. Those symbols are important, and in many lodge rooms are augmented by representations of the sun rising in the east, at meridian height in the south, and setting in the west. But this symbolism is not the same as The Three Steps, or rather three sets of steps—one in the south, two in the west, and three in the east. It is this symbolism that is reflected in the monitorial work in the lecture of the third degree. And because this symbolism is less obvious, it is often missed. It should not be: It is a beautiful symbol worth exploring.

These steps are associated in the ritual with the three degrees of ancient craft Masonry. *Youth* is likened to the Entered Apprentice degree, *Manhood* to the Fellowcraft degree, and *Age* to the Master Mason degree. We are then told that in *Youth* we are to “industriously occupy our minds in the attainments of useful knowledge.” As Fellowcrafts we are to “apply our knowledge to the discharge of our respective duties to God, our neighbors, and ourselves.” Then—as Master Masons—we “may enjoy

the happy reflection consequent on a well-spent life.”

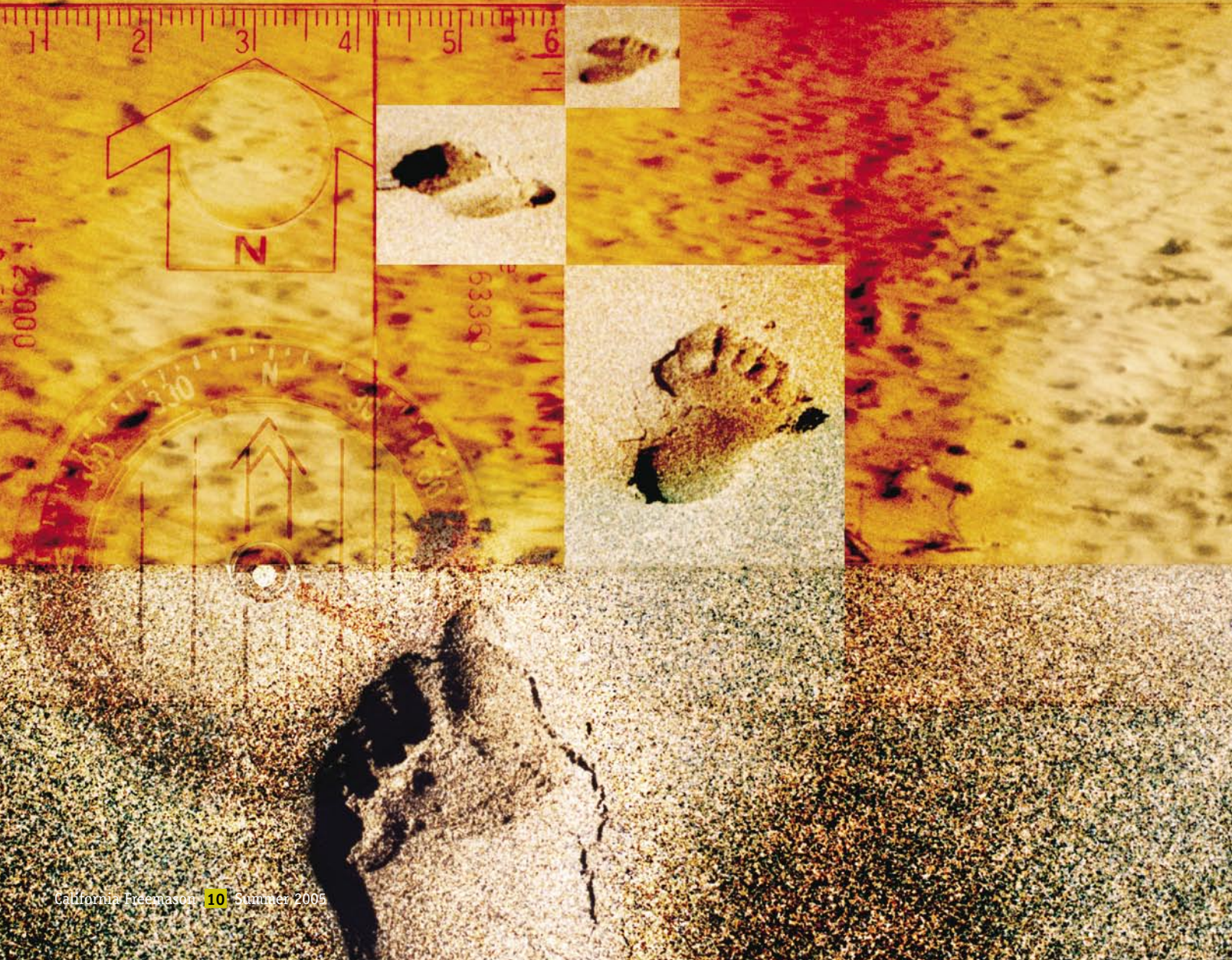
This issue of California Freemason is devoted to youth. As such, it is worth reflecting on what Freemasonry says about youth in its ritual. The most obvious place is the symbolism of “The Three Steps usually delineated upon the master’s carpet”—or nowadays represented by the single step leading to the junior warden’s station. The junior warden’s station thus becomes the place in the lodge devoted symbolically to “industry”—what we today would call hard work. But it is not hard work for hard work’s sake. It is hard work aimed at obtaining useful knowledge. Freemasonry is in some sense a journey in search of truth, but truth must emerge from a base of knowledge. Unless we work hard to obtain knowledge at the beginning of our journey, the rest of the trip will be far more difficult—or even fruitless.

One cannot apply knowledge that one does not possess. The symbolism of The Three Steps is that we have to do “first things first.” First comes knowledge, and then comes usefulness to God, our neighbors, and ourselves. The important thing is not whether or not we take this first step in our actual youth—in fact, many people do not take this first step until late in life. But all must take it. Each individual must go through the symbolic progression of *Youth*, *Manhood*, and *Age*—no matter when he starts. If you have not yet started to attain that knowledge of life and of Masonry, why not start now? ✦

And the

CHILDREN

Shall Lead...



“What are these kids today doing?” If you turn on the television news on an average night, it is not hard to find the answer: gang violence, drugs, vandalism, theft, and even murder. If today’s youth are tomorrow’s leadership, it is hard not to look at the facial piercings and heavy black eyeliner and despair over the future of our communities and our country.

By Richard J. Berman

Of course, what does not get covered on the evening broadcasts are the millions of teens who are working hard to make this world a better place. While it might not make “Eyewitness News,” today’s high school and college students are arguably more involved in issues of local, national, and global concern than ever before. From helping abused women to buying hearing aids for underprivileged children, idealistic and energetic teens are working hard to help make the world a better place. While many of these young people volunteer their time as individuals, groups of young people are helping the less fortunate through organized volunteer and fundraising campaigns that have long-lasting effects. Not surprisingly, Masonic youth organizations are playing a leading role in this movement.

Every member of the three Masonic youth organizations—DeMolay International, Job’s Daughters International, and the International Order of the Rainbow for Girls—has a different story. California Freemason looks at four unique young adults who have dedicated their teen years to public service within a Masonic context—and in the process have developed valuable leadership skills that will serve them for the rest of their lives.

Taylor Blakely, Jurisdictional Master Councilor for Southern California Jurisdiction—Order of DeMolay

“The biggest part of my position is the travel,” according to Taylor Blakely. In his role as Jurisdictional Master Councilor, the 19-year-old Los Angeles native is responsible for visiting each of the 33 active DeMolay chapters in Southern California at least once during his one-year term. Because of the size of the state,

California is divided into two regions, but Blakely still has to drive hundreds of miles to visit far-flung chapters. “Just about every weekend I have the opportunity to meet fellow DeMolays and see what they are doing in their communities. It is amazing to see what these guys are doing in terms of charitable work. It is not just the big cities—chapters in small towns and up in the mountains are doing really great things.”

Ironically, Blakely had a bad first impression of the group when he became a member in September 2000. “I really didn’t know what they were doing, and I really wasn’t into it.” He stuck with DeMolay and soon made friends in his chapter, and it was not long before he began to meet people in other chapters. “A lot of the people I’ve met are amazing, and some of my best friends are in



Youth leaders gather at the Southern California DeMolay Conclave.

DeMolay,” he says. In fact, he was so inspired by his involvement in the order that he joined Pasadena Lodge No. 272 when he turned 18, and became a Master Mason in August of 2004. “It’s just a part of who I am,” he says.

After high school Blakely spent two years at Pasadena City College, where he pitched for the baseball team “before my arm fell off.” He has recently been accepted as a transfer student at the University of Southern California, where he will pursue a degree in business

Continued on page 12

management starting in the fall. "I think the skills I have learned [in DeMolay] are really useful and go far beyond what I do as Master Councilor," he says. "I think that my involvement in DeMolay has really made me a better leader."

Shannyn Allan, Grand Worthy Advisor—Rainbow for Girls

Unlike many leaders in California's Masonic youth organizations, Shannyn Allan's family had no Masonic heritage prior to her joining Rainbow for Girls at age 12. Within a few years, Allan had become a bit of a celebrity in her hometown for her tireless work with Fallbrook Assembly No. 137, and the local "Village News" frequently covered her work with Rainbow. She was also honored by Fallbrook Lodge No. 317, which awarded her a scholarship that she uses to pay her tuition at Palomar Community College.

Among the activities undertaken by Fallbrook Assembly under Allan's leadership as worthy advisor were collecting donations for residents of a battered women's shelter, running a charity car wash, and raising more than \$1,300 selling homemade lemonade at the local avocado festival with the assistance of Eastern Star Ladies. Her involvement and leadership in her own community led to her election as grand page for the California Grand Assembly in 2004, and in April 2005 she was

selected to hold the top office in the state.

Allan, a 2004 graduate of Fallbrook High School, says that her involvement with Rainbow at the local and state levels has helped to develop her leadership skills. Chief among these is public speaking—a necessary skill for a young woman who will be making more than 30 official visits to assemblies around California in the coming year. "I plan to travel and meet with every Rainbow Girl group in the state," the 18-year-old from northern San Diego County says, "and I will be speaking at all of them!"

"We have a real opportunity to make a difference, and I've learned that I have a passion for helping others."

In addition, she will be guiding the organization's charitable giving during her term. "We have a real opportunity to make a difference, and I've learned that I have a passion for helping others." Allan is currently taking a year away from her studies to dedicate herself fully to her Rainbow activities, and plans to return to school when her term as grand worthy advisor ends in 2006.

Cameron Elder, Grand Bethel Honored Queen—Job's Daughters

The International Order of Job's Daughters (IOJD) is unique among Masonic youth organizations in that members are required to be related to a Master Mason. Although Cameron Elder's father was not a Mason, her grandfather's standing in the craft made her eligible to join the local Bethel (the IOJD equivalent of the Masonic Lodge) at the age of 10. Thirteen years later, the recent graduate of the California State University at Fresno remains as passionately committed to the organization as she was when she first became a member. "The ages of 10 to 21 are fundamental for learning leadership skills. When I got to college I really noticed how far ahead I was in terms of people skills and public speaking."

One of the first leadership tasks undertaken by Elder was opening a Job's Daughters Bethel in her hometown of Selma. The previous local



Cameron Elder, Grand Bethel Honored Queen, Job's Daughters; Greg Willhoit, Jurisdictional Master Councilor for Northern California Jurisdiction, Order of DeMolay; Taylor Blakely, Jurisdictional Master Councilor for Southern California Jurisdiction, Order of DeMolay; and Shannyn Allan, Grand Worthy Advisor, Rainbow for Girls

organization had disappeared in the 1970s, and at the age of 10 Elder took the lead in applying for a new charter, which was granted in 1992. She was elected as the Bethel's honored queen several times during her teen years, and at the age of 18 became a grand bethel girl, entitling her to hold statewide offices. Unlike DeMolay and Rainbow Girls, Job's Daughters officers are selected at random from a pool of senior members. "The names are picked out of a hat, and the excitement at the Grand Bethel was amazing."

Although Elder's selection as grand bethel honored queen may have been the result of mathematical happenstance, it is a role for which she is perfectly prepared. "When I went to my first Grand Bethel, I really wanted to be like the girls I saw on the floor, and it came true." Later this year she will be moving to Georgia to get married, but the Golden State's loss is the Peach State's gain. "There are no active Bethels in Georgia," Elder explains.



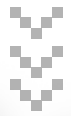
"One of my priorities is to start an organization there. Job's Daughters does great work, and I think this will really be a good opportunity for girls who want to get involved and make a difference."

Greg Willhoit, Jurisdictional Master Councilor for Northern California Jurisdiction—Order of DeMolay

"The most important thing I have developed is confidence in myself," says 19-year-old Greg Willhoit, who serves as the elected leader of the Order of DeMolay in the northern half of California. Like many members of DeMolay—the world's largest youth fraternity—Willhoit learned about the organization from a family member. "My cousin was in Job's Daughters, and I wanted to find out more." In June 1999 he joined the San Juan DeMolay chapter in Citrus Heights (near Sacramento) and immediately became an active member. "It's not something taken lightly by members," he explains.

Although DeMolay is functionally separate from the Freemasons, many members of the order become Entered Apprentices when they reach age 18. Willhoit says that "DeMolay gets a lot of our heritage and values from the Masons." Not surprisingly, he joined Harding San Juan Lodge No. 579 in Citrus Heights in March 2004, and was raised to the degree of Master Mason three months

"I want to start my own company and work for myself, and a lot of what you need to be successful is part of being in DeMolay. The values of the order, as well as the leadership skills I've learned, are going to stay with me for my entire life."



later. At the same time, Willhoit says that most of his energies are focused on his work with DeMolay. "It's really a full-time job," he says. This year the Northern California Jurisdiction's 29 chapters worked together to volunteer at the Special Olympics in Stockton, and last year the organization raised money for juvenile diabetes prevention.

Willhoit is planning on pursuing a business degree at Sierra College, and he says that the abilities he has learned as Jurisdictional Master Councilor will serve him well in the private sector. "I want to start my own company and work for myself, and a lot of what you need to be successful is part of being in DeMolay. The values of the order, as well as the leadership skills I've learned, are going to stay with me for my entire life." ♠

For more information on Masonic youth organizations in California, please visit their Web sites:

Rainbow for Girls
www.ca1org.org

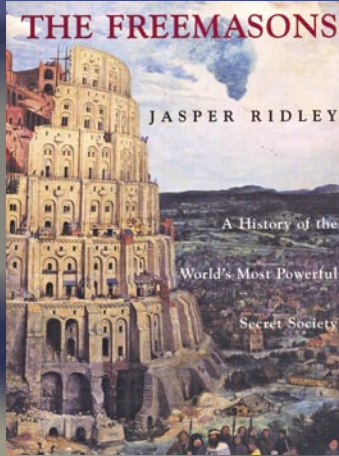
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The Freemasons

A History of the World's Most Powerful Secret Society



Jasper Ridley
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Freemasonry is a subject of continuous interest and fascination. To a non-Mason, it is a secret society that includes many influential members and keeps its rituals and initiations to itself. According to the author, this secrecy is the primary reason why there are so many anti-Masonic conspiracy theories.

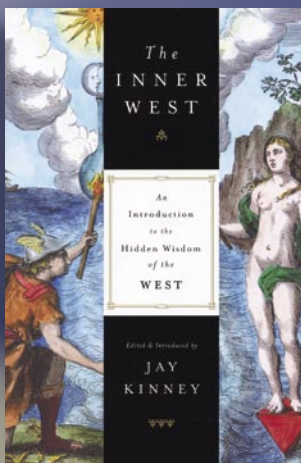
Jasper Ridley is a non-Mason who has done his research well, and he provides the one thing that is missing from many anti-Masonic writings: facts. He details the many anti-Masonic sentiments that have arisen throughout the history of Freemasonry, as well as various scandals that range from fraud to murder. Ridley provides balance by carefully displaying the facts of Masonic history with fluid writing and a contemplative perspective.

The last three chapters focus on Freemasonry in England and the United States, and how Masonry is often defined as a menace to society. The author does a wonderful job stifling many of the popular anti-Masonic arguments and theories put forth by such authors as Stephen Knight and Martin Short.

If you are looking for an objective history of the craft, then this book is worth a read.

The Inner West

An Introductory Study



Editor Jay Kinney
Jeremy P. Tarcher
ISBN: 1585423394
Copyright 2004
(Softcover, 324 pages)

By Dennis V. Chorneky

“The Inner West,” edited and introduced by Bay Area Mason Jay Kinney, is an anthology of the hidden philosophical currents of Western thinking. It is a compilation of 20 articles, most of which were originally printed in the acclaimed esoteric spiritual magazine “Gnosis,” which was founded by Kinney and published from 1985–1999.

The first section provides a good introduction to three main sources of inspiration for much of Western esoteric thinking: Hermeticism, Neoplatonism, and Gnosticism. The second section examines the esoteric and mystical currents within Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. The third looks at specific teachings and practices such as alchemy, magic, tarot, and Wicca. The fourth looks at the secret brotherhoods of the Knights Templar, the Rosicrucians, and the Freemasons. The last section discusses several eccentric individuals who led esoteric movements.

Those interested in the wide spectrum of historical and philosophical currents responsible for much of speculative Freemasonry should pick up a copy of “The Inner West.” The articles are short, easy to read, and mostly balanced on issues of scholarly contention.

Relief in Action

By Ann Lyon Dudley

The Masonic Home for Children

Throughout California there are many children who are deprived of a safe childhood. Many do not have parents who can care and provide for them, a stable family life that helps build self-esteem, or exposure to educational and other enrichment opportunities that are essential to children on their journey to becoming adults.

For more than 100 years, many of these at-risk children have come to live at the Masonic Home of California at Covina, where they have found a structured and nurturing environment in a family-like surrounding. This special setting, staffed by trained and dedicated professionals, has enabled the children to develop to their fullest potential.

None of this has changed.

But now, the Masonic Home for Children has changed its philosophy of care to better meet the needs of today's children. It is an approach that evolves from core Masonic values.

New challenges to normal child development have emerged. In the Masonic spirit of constantly striving for improvement, the Home has now brought to its mission a philosophy that embraces the family as the key to the child's success. In the Masonic tradition of taking a good child and making him or her better, our emphasis is on looking at the child from the vantage point of developing his or her strengths.

While there are often roadblocks that prevent a child from remaining in his or her own home, that does not change the desire of the family and the child to live together under the same roof. The Masonic Home is a place of transition, and the goal is to place him or her back into a normal family life or, if that is not feasible, into a safe and secure adoptive family or foster home.

The staff reaches out to the parents and asks, "What help do you need from us to bring your family back together permanently?" This includes counseling and a broad spectrum of parenting and other support services while a child is residing at the Home, as well as support after a child leaves.

The hallmarks of the Masonic children's program are early intervention for at-risk children, short-term residential stays, individual treatment plans for each child, family resource services that support reunification, and post-graduate services for children and families.

Our philosophy of care: the Circle of Courage

To stabilize a child who comes to live at the Home, to get to the root causes of dysfunctional behavior, and to achieve the goal of eventual reunification with family, the Masonic Home for Children has adopted a model of youth empowerment called the Circle of Courage.

Continued on page 18

DOES READING matter?

By Ann Lyon Dudley

Reading Skills Emphasized in Covina Children's Program

Does reading matter? The staff of the Covina children's program says the answer is an emphatic "yes." They point to some solid reasons why that is so, beginning with the practical benefits and moving on to the less tangible rewards of a life filled with books.

The importance of reading as a skill and a habit is firmly ingrained in the Masonic tradition. A key tenet of Masonry is to make a daily advancement in Masonic knowledge. For many generations this has meant turning to the large body of printed material about the craft that is available in libraries and bookstores.

It is not surprising that reading proficiency is one of the skills emphasized in the education of the youngsters in the children's program at the Masonic Home at Covina, and plans are being made to enhance the availability of good literature to further entice the children to make reading an integral element of the rest of their lives.

Marissa Espinosa, director of children's services, is enthusiastic about the planned expansion of the children's library. Devoted to making reading a strength for as many children as possible, she feels that "assembling a collection of books the children will be interested in reading" is

the cornerstone of getting children to spend time every day with a good book or a magazine.

Each of the children's homes has a reading room with books that are appropriate to the reading level and interests of the children. Every day in each house reading is actively encouraged. Time is set aside after school, homework, and dinner when the children may select a book and spend time quietly reading.

Two family specialists, who live in a home with six children, ages six to 12, care passionately about encouraging a love of reading in the children. They applied for and received a grant of \$200 to buy books for the children, and a tutor who works with the children helped select 32 books from the Scholastic bookstore.

The children were thrilled with their new books, the couple reports. Every day, several of the children read to them and then explain what they have read. The family specialists continually support the activity because "good readers do well in school."

The family specialists like the idea that the school the children attend emphasizes reading in the curriculum. The children are required to turn in a book report every quarter, and as a result, they spend a lot of time visiting the local public library.

One of the older children who lives at the Home tutors some of the younger children in math, history, English, and science. This 16-year-old is a good example of what a child can achieve when excited by reading at a young age. Encouraged by her teacher, she began reading one book every week in sixth grade, and still finds time to make reading an important part of her life. Currently a junior in high school with a 3.0 grade point average,

she hopes to attend Azusa Pacific College and go on to earn a Ph.D. in psychology with a minor in sign language. Her dream is to work with deaf children. She sums up her interest in reading this way, "If you can't read, you can't do anything."

Many education experts would agree with her. Contrary to popular belief, the rise of the Internet has not led to the death of the printed word. Even though the Web is often the first source checked for information and recreation, the fact is that all of the information it contains is based on the written word. This makes reading more and more a part of people's lives. To effectively use the Web and judge the authenticity and value of what is found there, both reading and critical-thinking skills are of prime importance.

The more children read, the better they become at reading. It's

The family specialists continually support the activity because "good readers do well in school."

that simple. The more enjoyable the things they read are, the more they will stick with them and develop the reading skills they will need in their adult lives. Reading should be viewed as a pleasurable activity, as a source of entertaining tales, and as a way to uncover useful and interesting factual information.

With this as background, Judi Hopper, a former librarian and the wife of Junior Grand Warden Richard W. Hopper, has taken an interest



Children at the Masonic Home in Covina share in the joy of reading.

in helping the Home upgrade the children's library.

Mrs. Hopper has the credentials to lend a hand with this important task. She started library building when she enrolled her own children in elementary school. When she saw how poorly supplied their school library was, she donated three boxes of books. From that beginning, the library grew to 8,000 volumes in six years. She also went on to become a professional librarian with the Visalia Unified School District, and then became a library development specialist with the Tulare County Office of Education.

In the middle school her child attended, she was instrumental in the adoption of a policy where once a day, every day, for 15 minutes all activity came to a halt, and everyone—students, teachers, cooks, custodians, coaches—took a time-out to read.

Right now the Covina children's library shelves are mainly stocked with books that were originally purchased for the adult library on campus.

Mrs. Hopper believes the joy of reading comes through providing material people really are interested in. For her, and the staff of the Covina children's program, the dream is to foster a zeal for life-long learning in the children. And that begins and ends with a dedication to reading. ✨



Children and parents work with Covina staff to reunite families.

The model includes four components. The first is belonging (Brotherly Love), a universal desire for human bonds that nurtures trusting relationships so that a person can say, "I am loved." The second part is mastery of skills, defined as an inborn thirst for learning that builds on the strengths and potential of an individual and overcompensates for deficiencies. This allows a person to say, "I can succeed." The third component is self-sufficiency and independence. Responsible decision making and personal accountability is nurtured and taught so that a person can say, "I am in charge of my life." The last is generosity (Relief). The teaching of social responsibility and concern for others builds character and leadership skills so that a person can say, "I have purpose for my life."

Our core values

The Circle of Courage rests upon three core values of the Masonic Home for Children. First is excellence and maintaining the highest standards of care and measuring outcomes. Second is advocacy and encouraging belonging by embracing the family as a partner in treatment and advocating for programs

and services that best meet their needs. Third is education and teaching skills and social responsibility as essential to achieving belonging, independence, mastery of skills, and generosity to enhance children's self-esteem.

Expectations of the Children's Program

Through our commitment to constantly strive for improvement, we have developed clear metrics to track the success of our program. The new model of care adopted by the Home is designed to insure excellence, innovation, and quality outcomes.

The following criteria will be regularly evaluated:

- Children will improve their social, emotional, behavioral, and physical well-being.
- Children will improve their level of functioning in the areas of education, recreation, and social responsibility.
- Children will be free of abuse and neglect from family members and others with whom they come in contact through instilling trust and self-sufficiency, and establishing strong administrative oversight.
- Children will experience the benefit of permanency in their lives through the program in restoring families and providing permanency through adoption when indicated.
- Children will be able to thrive as they enter into independent adulthood as a result.

Changing our community—one child at a time

For more than a century, the Masonic Homes of California have been serving children in need. Much has changed since we opened our doors, but our basic commitment to provide relief to those in need remains the same. ✨

News You Can Use



► Visit Our Web Site

You can read about the latest developments in the Homes, download recent mailings, and learn about the programs and services we provide on the new Web site for the Masonic Homes of California. Please visit www.masonichome.org.



► Calls for Masonic Assistance

A single phone call is all it takes to address your questions and need for services. So call us today if you are considering applying for admission to the Masonic Homes or for assistance through our Masonic Outreach Services (MOS) department at **888/466-3642 (888/HOME MHC)**.




► Children's 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, **626/251-2226**, or e-mail mespinoza@mhccov.org.



► Communications

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, **626/251-2226**, or e-mail mespinoza@mhccov.org.

A young man with short brown hair, wearing a dark jacket over a light sweater and a collared shirt, is sitting on a concrete ledge. He is holding several books in his left hand and a dark bag in his right. He is smiling slightly and looking towards the camera. The background shows a building with large windows and some greenery.

Meet Ben Schwartz
Active DeMolay and college student
Fellowcraft Mason

Faces of Masonry

For Ben Schwartz, the journey to Masonry started with DeMolay. "I became a DeMolay to improve myself," says Ben, "and to be a part of something my dad and his dad were both a part of, and it was the interaction with Masons that made me want to join." Ben petitioned Harding San Juan Lodge No. 579 because his father, David, also belongs to that lodge. Other DeMolays and Masons in his family include his grandfather, great-grandfather, and Past Grand Secretary Bob Klinger, a cousin.

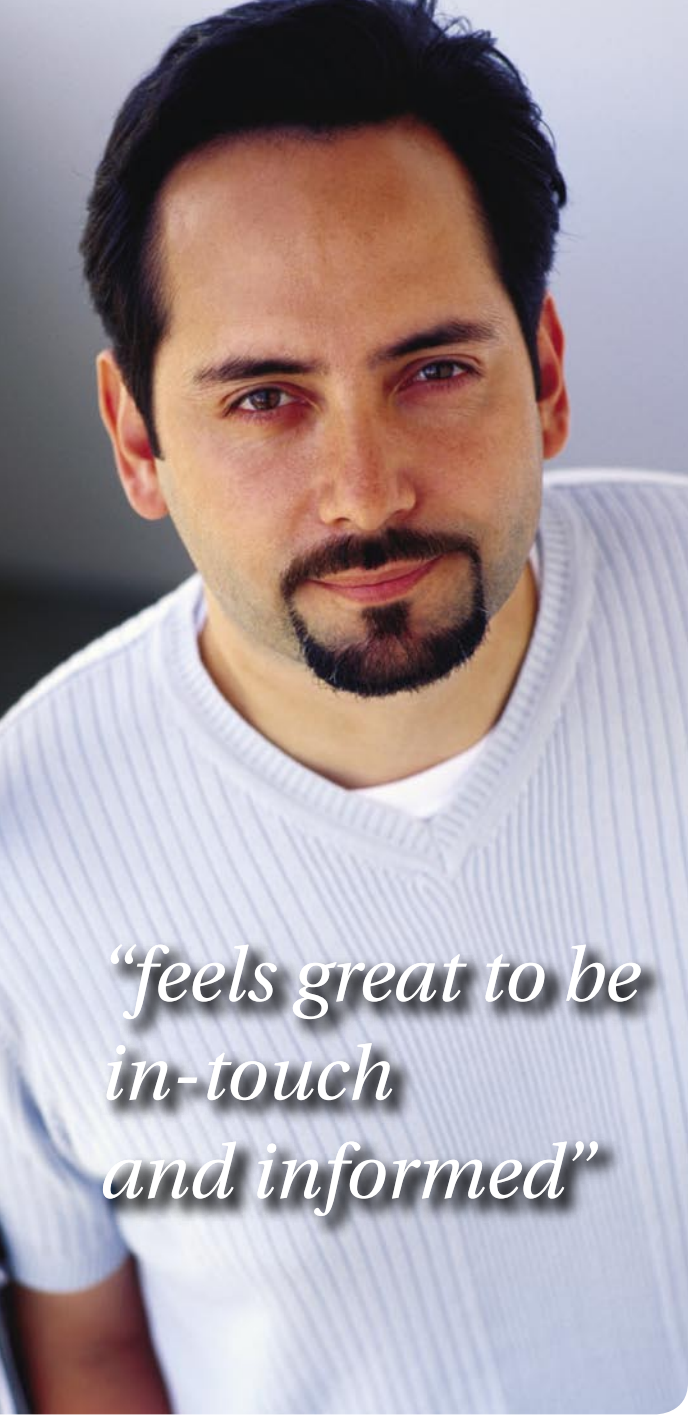
"DeMolay has given me the opportunity to be my absolute best," says Ben. "It has made me more confident and able to set higher goals for myself.

DeMolay has made me a better leader, a better speaker, a team player, and an out-of-the-box thinker. I am just beginning my journey in Masonry, but I will continue the growth, strong relationships, and endless opportunities to help other people. Because of DeMolay and Masonry, I have aspirations to attend film school when I never could have before."

Ben, 20, is studying digital video and film studies at California State University, Sacramento. He is planning on attending the Brooks Institute of Photography in September.



Masons of California



*“feels great to be
in-touch
and informed”*

Lodge Management Certification Program

A training and development series for California’s Masonic leaders

2005 Program Schedule

DATE	CITY	LOCATION
June 25	Fresno	Fresno Masonic Center
July 9	San Diego	San Diego Scottish Rite Center
July 16	Pasadena	Pasadena Scottish Rite Center
August 13	Oakland	Oakland Scottish Rite Center

- The five courses are:*
- Program Planning
 - Lodge Finance
 - Hall Association Management
 - Membership Development
 - Lodge Administration

Each course is a full day and costs \$30 per person, which includes lunch and materials.

Masonic Education Workshops

A new series to encourage Masonic education among members


2005 Workshop Schedule

DATE	CITY
July 23	Pleasanton
August 13	Folsom
September 24	Los Angeles

Each workshop is \$20 per person and includes lunch and materials.

The registration forms for both programs are posted on the member resources page.

For more information about the Lodge Management Certification Program or the Masonic Education Workshops, contact the Grand Lodge office at lmcp@freemason.org.

 Grand Lodge F & AM of California
1111 California Street
San Francisco, California 94108

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