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FREEMASON

Winter 2006



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EMILE NORMAN

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10 cover story

Fifty years ago the Grand lodge of California commissioned Emile Norman to create an enduring work of art for the Memorial Temple in San Francisco. He created the endomosaic mural in the lobby of the building - a legacy that continues today. On November 3, 2005 the Masons of California joined with luminaries in the art and architecture communities to honor Emile Norman and his magnificent works. Read about what inspired this artist, and what the future holds for his notable mural.

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



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If you have ever wondered about the origins of Freemasonry, or why there are concordant and appendant bodies, read reviews of two books that may be just what you've been looking for.



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Join John Cooper as he explores the symbolism of light and the differences between interior illumination and exterior brightness.



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Learn more about retirement communities as Deborah Stebbins describes possible expansion of the Masonic Homes

Masonry and the Community

Community awareness is a major component of the strategic plan adopted at the 156th Annual Communication. Awareness of our great craft is imperative for our lodges to do the work in their own communities and provide programs and involvement in community events. It is encouraged that each lodge provide a strategic plan and initiatives that tie in with the adopted Grand Lodge plan.

Freemasonry has a powerful message that transcends politics, religion, and social stature. We must become “partners for progress” in each of our communities so that the community is informed and understands that our craft lodges and other members of the family of Freemasonry are there for their welfare and benefit. We work in hundreds of ways to meet special needs and help others who would otherwise be unassisted.

It is time for Masonry to practice out of the lodge what we learn inside it. If we do not, how will our communities know what we stand for? In the past, there have been leaders of our communities within our order; however, that is not the case today. We need to again become community leaders. If we do not lead, who will, and where will they lead us? It is our principles that we practice in our lodge rooms that society needs today. Freemasonry teaches charity

and relief and then encourages us to go forward and serve our fellow citizens.

I am not asking that we become service clubs, but there are ways we can benefit the communities in which we are located. We must optimize the use of our Masonic buildings, making sure they are updated and available. Several of our Masonic centers throughout California are used for such services as Meals on Wheels, polling places, adult day care, and many other uses which benefit the community. We can no longer afford to have our Masonic centers open only for our meetings.

As Masons, there are many opportunities for us to help: Volunteer to tutor in school, assist your local library, provide the Child ID program for a community event, volunteer at the local Boy’s and Girl’s Club, and so many more opportunities. We need to make it known that we are ready, willing, and able to assist where needed.

Remember, if it is to be, it is up to you and me! ✨



Frederick L. Sorsabal
Grand Master

By Ronald A. Lee

Now Smile!

Child ID unites the lodge with community families

“Hello, young lady. My name is Rob and we are going to prepare a Child ID form for your parents. Come here and sit down. May I borrow your right hand for a moment? Thank you. I am going to place your right thumb on this scanner and take a digital picture of it. Now smile!”

As cute as this dialog sounds to the Masonic family members and the child’s parents at the Child ID booth, there are always those children who give you a knowing look which says, “Why should I smile for a picture of my thumb?”

The most popular program ever presented by our Grand Lodge for lodge use, the Child ID program unites Freemasonry with community families for an important and worthwhile effort—

to rescue the life of a child. For almost a decade now, California lodges have provided hundreds of thousands of child identification sheets to parents, which they can use in the event their child is ever missing or abducted.

Child ID programs are sponsored by lodges throughout the state at such events as a PTA festival; a Wal-Mart store safety exposition; or at a local, county, or state fair.

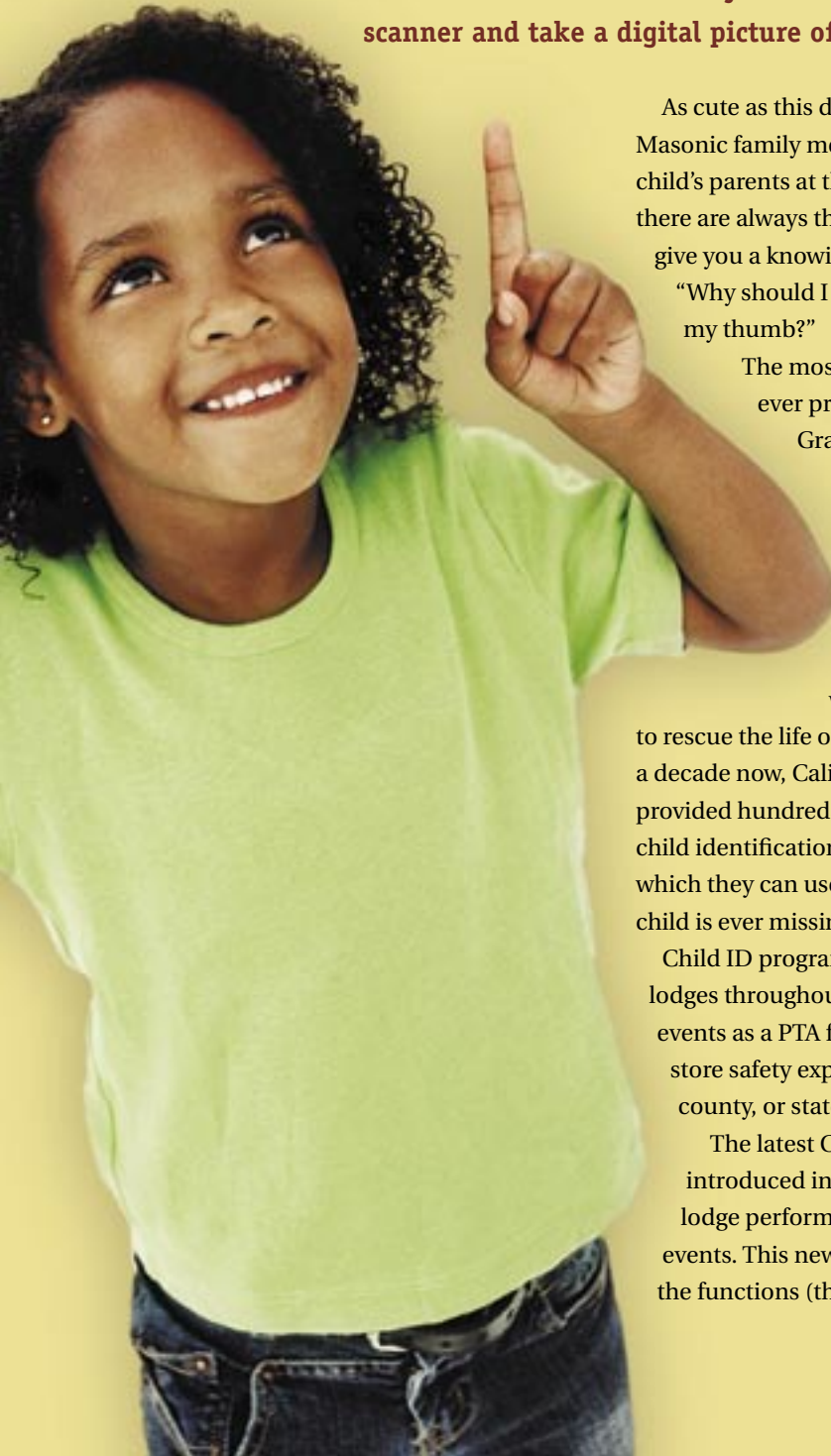
The latest Child ID software was introduced in 2005 to improve lodge performance at these events. This new software has all the functions (thumbprint scan,

picture creation, print, and clear) on one screen. It also utilizes a sturdier thumbprint scanner and a new camera for higher definition of thumbprints and pictures. At the bottom of the front page of our document are three business card-sized copies of the child’s picture, thumbprints, and lines for the parent or guardian to enter identification information. These cards can be cold-laminated by the parent and one copy kept by each of them and one given to the child.

In addition, a new reservation system has been implemented. While the reservation system will be a similar experience for the user, the new system will allow the committee to process reservations more efficiently and track important program information.

Interested lodges and Masons should visit www.freemason.org to see the new calendar and reservation system. Use the calendar to understand what other lodges are doing or have done.

Child ID is a great way to involve Freemasonry with the community and it serves an important purpose. Put your lodge at the forefront of helping children and families in your community. ✦

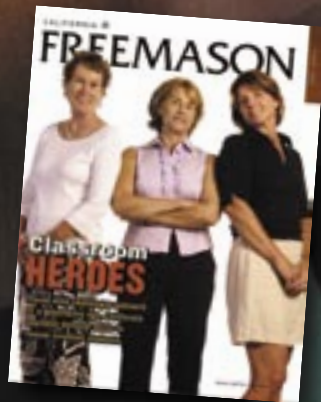


Rising from unknown to Acclaimed

By Terrie Mendez

How Naval Lodge used MSAP to raise community awareness

It was the “Classroom Heroes” article in the Fall 2003 issue of “California Freemason” that moved Robert Wilson to action. After reading about the Masonic Student Assistance Program (MSAP) workshops, and the positive impact on a school in his community, senior warden Wilson



made a proposal to his brothers at Naval Lodge No. 87: “Let’s bring the workshop to Vallejo.”

It took almost two years, but last August Naval Lodge, with help from many Vallejo-area Masonic family members, held the largest workshop in the history of MSAP. As a result, their extensive coordination and outreach efforts not only benefited local educators and students but also immeasurably increased community awareness of Masonry.

Since 1994, the three-day MSAP workshop has been

conducted during the school year like a retreat at the Masonic Home at Covina. Even though California educators attend at no charge, and their transportation is paid for, state budget cuts have made it harder for schools to send teams and pay for substitutes.

“With the number of schools we have in our area, I realized it would take a very long time for every school to be able to send a team. Why not bring the workshop to Vallejo, just before the school year begins?” Wilson explained.

“The California Masonic Foundation agreed to let us test a different way of conducting the workshop, but we had to raise the money to cover all expenses. Our budget was a little less than what is usually spent because the attendees were all local. We didn’t have transportation, housing, and dinner costs.” But the lodge did pay for two instructors and provide all the workshop materials and two meals a day plus snacks.

Two fundraising breakfasts, a benefit concert, and individual donations from lodge members raised about one-third of the budgeted amount.

“Before we could plan more fundraising events, we were fortunate to receive a very generous donation

from a lodge brother that put us at our goal,” says Wilson. “It took the pressure off and allowed us to focus on promoting and planning the workshop.”

Wilson made two presentations about MSAP to the Vallejo school board that were broadcast on public access TV. He obtained the support of the Vallejo Teachers Union president to allow teachers to attend as volunteers, without receiving training pay from the financially strapped school district. In addition, presentations were made to the Fairfield school board and the Solano County Office of Education was contacted. Principals of all the schools in Solano County received letters inviting them to send school teams, followed by contacts from lodge members at schools where they had a connection.

As a result, the workshop drew a record 108 participants and 12 observers from 28 schools in Solano County.

One of the challenges was explaining MSAP and its connection to the Masons of California to often-unaware audiences. Wilson says his team made liberal use of copies of that “California Freemason” article, with the section about the Vallejo elementary school highlighted. They also inserted large sections of the article in correspondence and group presentations. “It was available and tells a great story,” says Wilson.

More than 30 businesses received letters and follow-up contacts explaining the workshop and requesting assistance with food, supplies, and in-kind support. Even though this was the first time Naval Lodge had requested community assistance, the overall response was very positive. Many businesses agreed to partner with the lodge because the team made personal contacts and was able to knowledgeably discuss how the community benefits from MSAP.

In order to execute such an ambitious project, Wilson put together a large team of members of local Masonic organizations. Besides Naval Lodge members, he received dedicated assistance from members of four other lodges in the district; adult advisors to area Rainbow Girls and DeMolay chapters; members of Gateway OES; and Ellen Coll, the MSAP coordinator at Grand Lodge. An unanticipated benefit

of this joint effort has been increased interaction between Naval Lodge and local concordant bodies.

“What made this event a success was working as a Masonic family, partnering with Grand Lodge, and having the right size lodge building and parking lot to accommodate the participants,” Wilson says. “The one thing I would do differently is assigning someone to focus just on the media and do all the followup.”

The success of this workshop demonstrates how lodges can adapt Masonic programs to bring about more interaction with their communities and raise awareness of the fraternity. It was successful because those involved made extensive connections within the community—school boards, hundreds of school principals, business owners and managers, the 120 educators who attended the workshop,

“We’re no longer the unknowns in that building up on the hill,” says Wilson, referring to the Springbrook Masonic Temple in Vallejo.

and the public through publicity and newspaper articles about the fundraisers and the workshop.

“We’re no longer the unknowns in that building up on the hill,” says Wilson, referring to the Springbrook Masonic Temple in Vallejo. “In all our connections we gave a consistent message about Masonry and MSAP, using press kits and materials provided by Grand Lodge.”

Typical of the comments made by workshop attendees is the remark made by a school principal: “This is an incredible support to schools. I was unaware of what Masons do and the many services you provide to our children.”

In Solano County, Masonry now means much more than “that building on the hill.” ✧

INTERIOR ILLUMINATION

By John L. Cooper, III



Freemasonry is understood to be, in part, the science of interior illumination. Our ritual is filled with the symbolism of light and of the progress that a candidate makes as he moves from darkness to light. "Light" for Freemasons stands for knowledge, and for intellectual and psychological development as each Freemason pursues **"further light in Masonry."**



and Exterior Brightness

A candidate enters the world of Freemasonry in a symbolic state of darkness—and receives symbolic illumination only after he has taken a solemn obligation which will forever set him apart from the world outside Freemasonry. Our ritual quotes one of the oldest of written documents—the Book of Genesis—moments before a new Mason receives his first light as an Entered Apprentice Mason. Here is what he hears:

“In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. And God said, ‘Let there be light’; and there was light.” (Genesis 1:1–3)

Thus, at the very beginning of his journey as a new Mason, a candidate is taught to seek the light of understanding as found in the source of our being—in God Himself. Whatever his religious persuasion, he is taught that the light he will seek in Freemasonry is but a reflection of the much greater light which God gave humankind from the very beginning. Freemasonry is not a religion itself, but it most emphatically points a Freemason toward the light which is outside of, and beyond, himself. And he must find that light himself. Freemasonry cannot give him the light; it can only encourage him to seek it.

But Freemasonry is not only concerned with interior illumination, and certainly not concerned with interior illumination for its own sake. Every lodge of Free and Accepted Masons is closed with prayer—and that prayer asks that God will give each Mason the vision and the courage to “practice out of the lodge those great moral duties which are inculcated in it. ...” Freemasonry thus expects a Mason to take the light which he seeks for himself into the world to which he returns when the lodge is closed.

While Freemasonry is concerned with self-illumination, it is more concerned with what a Mason does with that self-illumination. If it serves only to foster interior growth for the Mason himself, it has little value for the larger world in which a Mason lives each day. We expect the

search for interior illumination to make a difference in a Mason as he grows in knowledge and understanding—but we expect much more that he will use that knowledge and understanding to make a difference in his family, his community, his country, and his world.

By the time you read this column, many of you will have attended the installation of your lodge. If so, you heard

WE EXPECT THE SEARCH FOR INTERIOR ILLUMINATION TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN A MASON AS HE GROWS IN KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING...

words which express our understanding of the foregoing in the instructions given to the Master as he is installed as a leader of Freemasonry for the twelve months ensuing. The Master is told that he is to “spread and communicate light and instruction to the brethren of [his] lodge.” He is further told that he should “Forcibly impress upon them the dignity and high importance of Masonry, and seriously admonish them never to disgrace it.” Then he is told that he is to “Charge them to practice out of the lodge those duties which they have been taught in it, and by amiable, discreet, and virtuous conduct, to convince mankind of the goodness of this institution. ...” Those are powerful words, and they clearly demonstrate that Freemasonry expects its members to carry Freemasonry from the lodge out into the world.

This issue is devoted to Freemasonry and the community. The articles tell of the many things that Freemasons do to make their communities a better place for everyone. And now we know why this is so. Freemasonry expects each Mason to transform his interior illumination into an exterior brightness—a brightness that makes the world a better place because a Freemason passed that way. ✧

By Richard J. Berman

HONORING A LEGEND

BAY AREA ART AND ARCHITECTURE COMMUNITY UNITES AS THE
MEMORIAL TEMPLE MURAL RENOVATION PROJECT BEGINS

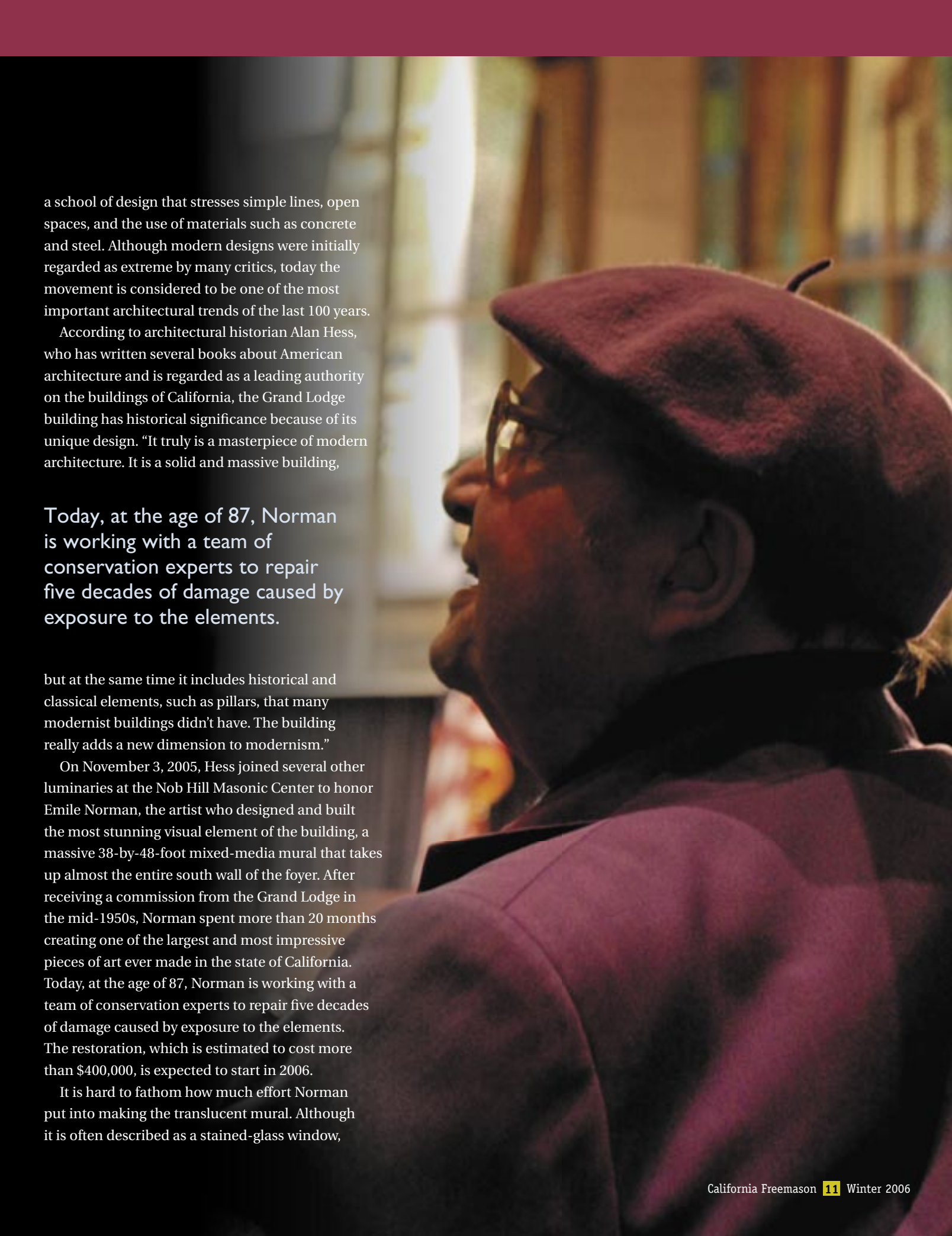
In many ways, it is ironic that people often describe Freemasonry as a “secret society.” After all, although the organization’s rituals are held behind closed doors, Masonic lodges throughout the world have always gone out of their way to support charitable work, promote ethical behavior, and spread the light of Masonry in their communities. As many brothers are fond of saying, a truly secret society wouldn’t publish its upcoming meetings in the local newspaper.

One of the most notable ways that Masonry in California makes itself visible to the larger community is through its buildings, several of which have been designated as historical landmarks. In many ways, this is appropriate: After all, the Craft traces its roots back to the builders of the ancient

world, and many of the symbols used by Masons represent the tools used by architects today. It is not uncommon to see lodge buildings adorned with these images, which, rather than being kept hidden from public view, are displayed prominently so they can be seen by Masons and non-Masons alike.

One of the most visually stunning Masonic buildings in the state is the California Masonic Memorial Temple at the crest of San Francisco’s Nob Hill, which serves as the home of the Grand Lodge of California and its entities. Built in the 1950s, the white marble structure—located across the street from the equally imposing Gothic-style Grace Cathedral—is hard to miss not only for its size, but for its bold embodiment of the principles of mid-century modernist architecture,





a school of design that stresses simple lines, open spaces, and the use of materials such as concrete and steel. Although modern designs were initially regarded as extreme by many critics, today the movement is considered to be one of the most important architectural trends of the last 100 years.

According to architectural historian Alan Hess, who has written several books about American architecture and is regarded as a leading authority on the buildings of California, the Grand Lodge building has historical significance because of its unique design. "It truly is a masterpiece of modern architecture. It is a solid and massive building,

Today, at the age of 87, Norman is working with a team of conservation experts to repair five decades of damage caused by exposure to the elements.

but at the same time it includes historical and classical elements, such as pillars, that many modernist buildings didn't have. The building really adds a new dimension to modernism."

On November 3, 2005, Hess joined several other luminaries at the Nob Hill Masonic Center to honor Emile Norman, the artist who designed and built the most stunning visual element of the building, a massive 38-by-48-foot mixed-media mural that takes up almost the entire south wall of the foyer. After receiving a commission from the Grand Lodge in the mid-1950s, Norman spent more than 20 months creating one of the largest and most impressive pieces of art ever made in the state of California. Today, at the age of 87, Norman is working with a team of conservation experts to repair five decades of damage caused by exposure to the elements. The restoration, which is estimated to cost more than \$400,000, is expected to start in 2006.

It is hard to fathom how much effort Norman put into making the translucent mural. Although it is often described as a stained-glass window,



it is actually comprised of more than 40 panels made from a wide variety of materials, including acrylic, fabric, seashells, and powdered glass. The work also includes soil collected by Masons in every county in the

“Many of the small tiles in the mural have slipped and need to be put back in place, and the glue that was originally used also needs to be fixed. But even with the damage it is still an impressive piece and a real landmark in the city.”

state as well as Hawaii, which at the time the mural was created was still part of the Grand Lodge of California.

It's not just the enormous size and impressive construction of the mural (which Norman calls an “endomosaic” because it is made up of materials pressed between two clear panels) that make it a unique creation. Topped by a representation of the all-seeing eye, the work contains hundreds of symbolic representations of the role that Masons played in building the state of California. In addition to the eye, Norman used well-known images, such as the square and compass, beehive, apron, and trowel, as key components of his design. There are also dozens of less familiar symbols at play, and it can take several visits to the building to take in all of the Masonic and historical imagery.



Joining Alan Hess in honoring Emile Norman was David Wessel of Architectural Resources Group (ARG), which is spearheading the restoration of the mural. Wessel, who has overseen the renovation of state landmarks ranging from the Point Reyes Lighthouse to the Watts Towers in Los Angeles, says that the Masonic window is a truly irreplaceable treasure.

“Many of the small tiles in the mural have slipped and need to be put back in place, and the glue that was originally used also needs to be fixed. But even with the damage it is still an impressive piece and a real landmark in the city.” In addition to fixing the window's panels, ARG will also install a new backlighting system to make the window more dramatic at night.

David A. Wessel explains the restoration process which involves removing 12 of the 45 panels. The panels include a verity of materials like glass, fabric, and soil from all the counties in California and Hawaii.

Despite a long and successful career, Norman isn't a household name because he has never actively sought the spotlight. The event honoring his work on the Masonic Temple (which also includes a towering stone frieze on the building's exterior) was one of the first times that he has received public acclaim. In addition to presentations by Hess and Wessel, "LA Law" star Jill Eikenberry spoke eloquently about the window and the lifetime of work created by Norman, who lives near her home in Big Sur and whose work she has been collecting for many years. Norman also received official recognition from members of the San Francisco City Council, the state legislature, and the city's arts commission.

How Norman got the commission to create the mural at the Masonic Memorial Temple is a most unusual—and wonderful—story of serendipity. A self-taught artist who grew up on a walnut farm in Southern California, by the time he was 25, Norman had earned a reputation for his innovative window displays at major department stores in New York and Los Angeles. By the mid-1950s Norman, along with his partner Brooks Clement, had settled in Big Sur and opened a successful gallery in Carmel. He developed a local following, which earned him the commission for a window in a Monterey hotel where modernist architect Albert Roller happened to be staying. Roller, who had just been hired to design the new Masonic Temple in San Francisco, inquired about the window, and was introduced to Emile Norman, who soon thereafter was selected to create a mural for the new structure. Completing the project, with Clement's invaluable

assistance, took nearly two years.

It may seem odd that the Freemasons, long regarded as an inward-looking fraternity, would spend upwards of a half million dollars to restore a piece of art that was created to be viewed by the general public. In fact, most of the people who see the mural throughout the year are non-Masons who visit the temple for concerts, exhibitions, meetings, and other community events held in the building. Grand Master Frederick L. Sorsabal, a member of Placerville Lodge No. 26, says that this kind of public outreach is an essential element of Masonry. "For several decades we turned inside ourselves, and we lost a lot of opportunities to attract new Masons because we were too secretive.

We need to get into the community and let people know what we stand for and what we do. Architecture provides a way to make our presence known by increasing our visibility."

As an example of this penchant for confidentiality, Sorsabal recounts a recent conversation he had with Emile Norman. "He isn't a Mason, but he clearly was able to learn a great deal about us before he started working on his window. When I asked him where he learned so much, Norman told me that he had been given more than a dozen books about Masonry, from which he was able to create his design. He told me—and this was back in the 1950s—that he had also interviewed Masons about our rituals but been sworn to secrecy by the people that had shared the information with him!"

Of course, San Francisco is not alone in featuring visually stunning Masonic art. "Across the state you can see the wonderful architecture that we as Masons created and take pride



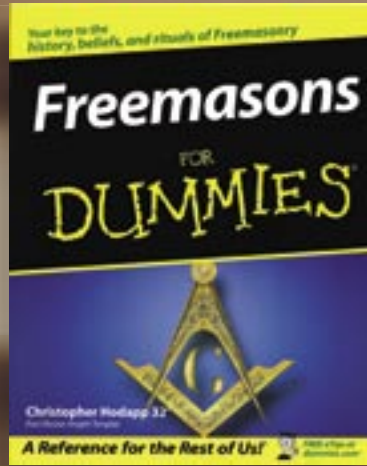
Television star Jill Eikenberry recounts the life and work of Emile Norman.

in," Sorsabal notes. He points to a number of examples, including the murals at Nevada City Lodge #13 (see "California Freemason," Spring 2005) and Howard Lodge #37 in Yreka, as well as the lodge building in Mendocino, which features unusual and wonderful stonework. "Even people who don't know much about the Masons know our buildings," he says.

Sorsabal hopes that the restoration of the Nob Hill Masonic Center window will help bolster the public profile of Freemasonry in California. "The event honoring Mr. Norman was wonderful, and what pleased me most was that most of the attendees weren't Masons. There were a lot of people in the community who came because they care about art and recognize the important role that the building plays in the life of San Francisco." ❖

Book

Freemasons for Dummies



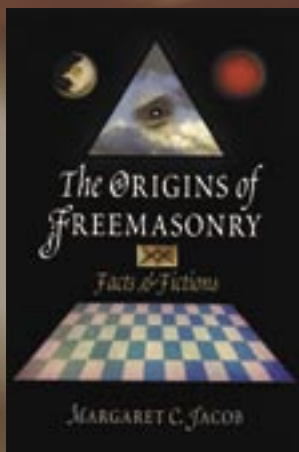
Christopher Hodapp
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 (Softcover, 368 pages)

You've mostly likely seen "Windows for Dummies" or "Personal Finance for Dummies." Launched in 1991 primarily as a reference book for computer users, For Dummies products cover a large spectrum of topics including cooking, accounting, travel, and literature. Now there is "Freemasons for Dummies."

This book comes with a cheat sheet that serves as a glossary of terms. From blue lodge degrees to appendant bodies to common Masonic abbreviations, "Freemasons for Dummies" explains the fraternity in the style of a common user's manual.

In 19 chapters, Christopher Hodapp explains what Freemasonry is and how it works. He includes a part titled "Knights, Swords, Fezzes, and Dresses," wherein he explains many of the appendant bodies, their histories, symbols, and initiations. He also discusses "Masonic-sounding groups" and other fraternal orders. In the fourth of the five parts, Hodapp discusses Freemasonry's relevance in today's society and its potential future. The book ends with a part on "Tens": "Ten Groups of Famous Masons"; "Ten Amazing Conspiracies, Anti-Masons, and Hoaxes"; and "Ten Cool Masonic Places."

The Origins of Freemasonry: Facts & Fictions



Dr. Margaret C. Jacob
 University of Pennsylvania Press
 ISBN: 0812239016
 Copyright 2006
 (Hardcover, 168 pages)

Did Freemasonry evolve from the Knights Templar? Have Freemasons placed cryptic symbols on currency and other national documents as a way to communicate with one another? Dr. Margaret Jacob proposes answers to these questions and many others, in her extremely well-researched book, "The Origins of Freemasonry: Facts & Fictions."

Jacob provides a very clear evolution of Freemasonry, as she begins with the early operative guilds and what attracted the gentlemen of the period to them, then proceeds to the formation of the first grand lodge in London, and explains the Freemasons as expressing "the highest ideals articulated during the Age of Enlightenment." Then she illustrates what the daily life of a Mason would have been like, saying that for early members "Freemasonry was meant to be lived, not simply joined." She shows us how the early lodges became schools of government, and influenced local and national politics. She then concludes with women in the lodges, finding evidence of gender integration as early as the 1740s.



A MESSAGE

From the President

By Allen B. Gresham, PGM

As I meet with members of our fraternal family across the state, I hear and feel the pride we all take in our Masonic Homes. Our communities, our buildings and the care provided within them, represent the best and highest of our Craft – our shared commitment to Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth.

I, and every Trustee on our Board, share this pride and are committed to upholding the tremendous legacy established by our forward-thinking ancestors. For more than a century, these homes have sheltered the most vulnerable members of our fraternal family and the children of our society.

Consistent with our principles, we care for our residents with the respect and dignity they deserve. Every year we hire an outside firm to survey our residents and family regarding their experience in living at the Masonic Homes. I am happy to report that our results place us among the very top retirement providers in the nation. Our residents deserve no less.

We achieved these scores by constantly striving for improvement in

all that we do. This means that every day we work to improve the quality and efficiency of our care. It also means that we challenge ourselves to develop programs and services that reflect the changing and evolving needs of our fraternity.

We now know that many of our middle-class senior members are facing a shortage of affordable retirement services. There are many high-end communities for those with significant means, and there are federally and state sponsored services for the poor. But many seniors in California have to leave the state – and their family, friends and lodge - to secure affordable services.

In response to this unmet need, we are working on a proposal to create two new Masonic Senior Living Communities on our existing campuses. We are excited by the possibilities of these new communities as they will allow us to better utilize our land and resources, expand our services to more of our constituents and help fund our charitable mission.

We will move forward with these

plans only with the support and interest of our fraternal community. During annual communications this year, we held four focus groups (which turned out to be standing room only!) to present the concept and hear members’ feedback. An overwhelming majority of attendees were strongly supportive of the concept. Here’s a sampling of some of the comments we received: “Right idea, good timing”; “Long over due”; “Very positive approach to retirement living”.

This led us to plan nine additional informational sessions in different locations across the state. At the time of this writing, we have over 300 members scheduled to attend one of these sessions. We will incorporate their feedback, refine our plans and then hold additional informational sessions in different parts of the state. In this way, we can ensure that any new senior living communities reflect the needs and desires of our membership and uphold the tremendous legacy of caring that extends for more than a century. ✧



By Deborah E. Stebbins

BUILDING Communities

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MASONIC HOMES CONSIDERS EXPANSION

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California Masons founded the Masonic Homes of California over 100 years ago to provide organized relief to those in need. Inspired by brotherly love, we built magnificent and sound buildings to last centuries and to shelter our fraternal family.

Today this tremendous legacy of care continues in the Masonic Homes of California’s two Continuing Care Retirement Communities (CCRCs). In Union City (Northern California) we serve approximately 270 members of our fraternal family, and in Covina (Southern California) we serve approximately 73. The Covina campus is also home to our children’s program, with 36 children currently residing on campus.

At the Masonic Homes, you will discover a community of residents who share common interests built upon the solid foundation of Masonic ideals; and you will discover a team of professionals dedicated to caring for our residents in a manner consistent with these Masonic ideals.

I'm not going to sell any of our land but I do think it is our responsibility to make the best and highest use of it.

In the words of a current resident of our Covina campus, "You have to experience it—it is difficult to express in words. It is the camaraderie—the fraternal ties—that makes the difference. We are all family here."

OUR HERITAGE, OUR FUTURE

The trustees and staff of the Masonic Homes are responsible for serving today's residents and planning for tomorrow's. To do this, we must make the best use of all of our resources—including our valuable land. Right now, only 25 of the 305 acres owned in Union City and only 19 of the 32 acres owned in Covina are developed.

Allen B. Gresham, PGM, president of the board of trustees, established a clear direction for the Masonic Homes: "None of our land will be sold during my term. And I have the unanimous support of the board in this. Why? Because I refuse any short-term solution that compromises our heritage or our future.

"I'm not going to sell any of our land but I do think it is our responsibility to make the best and highest use of it. I look before me and see acres of undeveloped land. And I know that we can use that land to create affordable services for our members in need. And I know that we can use that land to help support our charitable activities."

After years of research and surveying our membership, we believe that creating new Continuing Care Retirement Communities (CCRCs) on our existing land will meet the needs of our fraternal family today and develop our resources for those of tomorrow.

WHAT IS A CCRC?

All CCRC facilities offer multiple levels of care, including independent living, assisted living, skilled nursing and Alzheimer's/dementia care. Independent-living apartments or cottages are suited for individuals who need little or no assistance, whereas assisted-living apartments are designed for those who require some help with the activities of daily living (e.g., eating, bathing, medication management). Skilled-nursing care offers residents access to both short-term and long-term nursing care, if the need should arise.

The driving concept behind a CCRC is to provide residents with a continuum of care that helps them age comfortably. Within each level of care, services and support are customized to individual needs—offering a personalized approach to retirement.

Residents who live in continuing care retirement communities know that "wellness" is a way of life. A CCRC also offers a range of services, amenities, and wellness programs, all geared toward helping CCRC residents stay healthy and independent for as long as possible.

A CCRC offers several housing options so individuals can select the lifestyle that fits their personal needs. The proposed new CCRCs being considered by the Masonic Homes of California are still in the planning stages, so nothing is chiseled in stone. At this point, the conceptual plans for each campus call for approximately 150–180 new apartments ranging from 950 square feet to over 1,700 square feet.

HOW CCRC FEES WORK

It is important that everyone is clear that the existing facilities of the Masonic Homes will always be there for our members in need and open to eligible fraternal constituents—regardless of their financial situation. In fact, protecting our ability to serve our members in need is the guiding force behind all of our actions.

The new communities being considered will offer a different type of payment structure and are targeted to middle-income seniors who wish to secure their future and leave a legacy for their family.



The CCRC contract typically involves a payment plan based on a one-time entrance fee (which individuals pay before moving into the community) and a monthly accommodation fee. The amount of each of the two fees is based on the type of housing accommodation and the level of care the resident chooses.

A resident who chooses a two-bedroom cottage will pay a higher monthly fee than a resident who chooses to live in a one-bedroom apartment. A resident needing assisted-living services may have a higher monthly fee than a resident who requires no assistance. If an individual comes to a community as an independent-living resident, then moves to another level of care, the monthly fee is adjusted accordingly, but no additional entrance fee is paid.

Typically, residents have the option of choosing a refundable payment option. Following the initial trial period, should you leave the community for any reason, you or your estate will be eligible for a refund of a substantial portion of your entrance fee. You'll pay a higher entry fee for a refundable option, but should you leave the community, you will be entitled to a repayment of the majority of your entrance fee.

INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE?

These new senior living communities are being planned by our fraternal family for our fraternal family, so it is important that we hear from you! We plan to hold additional informational sessions around the state and have speakers available to come to your lodge to talk about these exciting new plans. If you are interested in learning more, please contact us at seniorhousing@mhcuc.org or **888-553-7555**. We look forward to hearing from you! ❖

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.



Call 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).



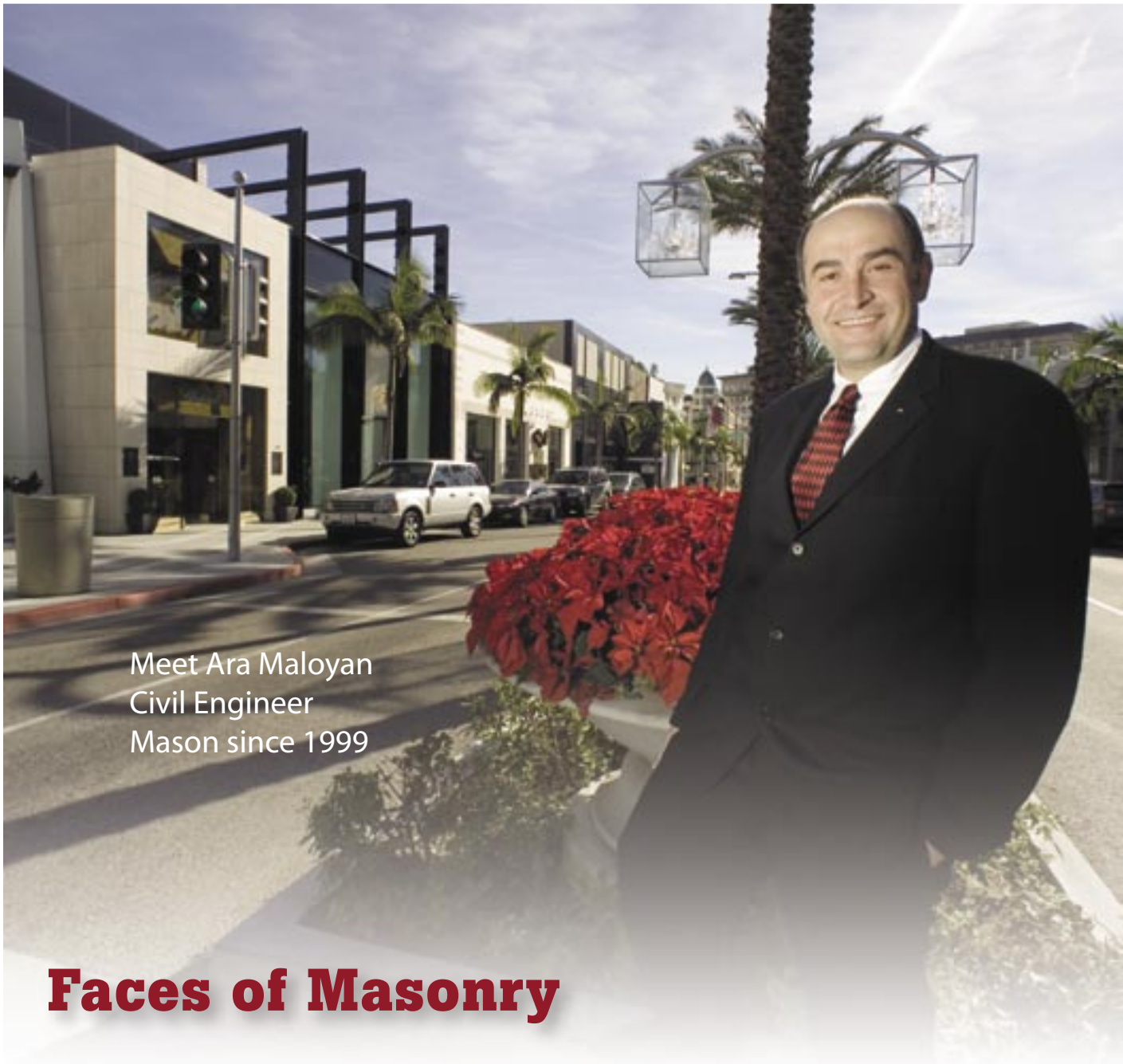
Children's Services ▶

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 ▶

The Masonic Homes have 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 510/675-1245 or communications@mhcuc.org. We look forward to hearing from you!



Meet Ara Maloyan
Civil Engineer
Mason since 1999

Faces of Masonry

For Ara Maloyan, Masonry has given him the opportunity to do what he enjoys most. “I have always been a Mason at heart” says Ara. “Since I was a child I was always interested in helping the needy and the poor. Now I have found an honorable institution that I can share my passions with fellow brothers.” Ara served as Master of Santa Monica Palisades Lodge No. 307 in 2005 and he also served as Senior Warden of Washington Lodge No. 4 in Yerevan, Armenia.

“The teachings of the Masonic symbols like the twenty-four inch gauge has allowed me to balance my life between my family, work and my social activities,” he says. “Masonry has taught me to gauge myself

continuously when making major decisions. The moral values that I have been taught now are more coherent and more emphasized when practicing in my daily life.”

Ara, 44, lives in Northridge with his wife, Stella, and two children, Nicholas, and Michelle. He is the Deputy City Engineer for the City of Beverly Hills and recently oversaw the design and reconstruction of five major commercial streets in Beverly Hills — most notably Rodeo Drive.



Masons of California

FRONT ROW L TO R:

Harold A. Macy, Grand Lecturer; M. William Holsinger, Grand Treasurer; Richard W. Hopper, Senior Grand Warden; Frederick L. Sorsabal, Grand Master; Melvyn B. Stein, Deputy Grand Master; Larry L. Adamson, Junior Grand Warden; John L. Cooper, III, Grand Secretary

SECOND ROW L TO R:


Manuel I. Blanco, Grand Pursuivant; Augusto A. Garcia, Grand Standard Bearer; Vernon M. Dandridge, AGL Division III; Donald R. Taylor, Sr., Grand Tiler; A. Glenn MacBride, AGL Division II; Robert D. Rowan, Jr., AGL Division I; H. Vincent Carter, Grand Marshal; Mark R. Sandstrom, Grand Chaplain; Allen E. Haynes, Grand Bible Bearer; Robert A. Haldeman, Assistant Grand Tiler; Richard M. Timmins, Grand Organist; Freddie G. Davis, Junior Grand Deacon

THIRD ROW L TO R:

Stephen R. Miller, Assistant Grand Organist; E. Dale Armstrong, AGL Division V; Daniel J. Moy, Junior Grand Steward; Jack M. Rose, AGL Division IV; Merritt E. Read, Senior Grand Steward; Kenneth G. Nagel, Senior Grand Deacon; H. John Fletcher, Grand Orator; Eric L. Wells, Grand Sword Bearer; Allan L. Casalou, Assistant Grand Secretary.



Grand Lodge Officers
2005-2006

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

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