

SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER 2017



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# FREEMASON

*300 Years of  
Freemasonry*

INTO THE FUTURE



CALIFORNIA FREEMASON

# SEPTEMBER OCTOBER

2017 VOL 65 NO 06



THIS IS THE THIRD AND FINAL ISSUE OF CALIFORNIA FREEMASON'S SPECIAL COMMEMORATIVE SERIES CELEBRATING THE 300TH ANNIVERSARY OF FREEMASONRY. WHEN VIEWED IN TANDEM, THE COLLAGE-STYLE COVER ARTWORK — INSPIRED BY LEONARD GABANON'S ICONIC "ASSEMBLÉE DES FRANCS-MAÇONS POUR LA RÉCEPTION DES APPRENTIS" — PRESENTS THE FRATERNITY'S EVOLUTION FROM ITS PAST INTO THE FUTURE. LEARN MORE AT [FREEMASON.ORG/SEPT17COVER](http://FREEMASON.ORG/SEPT17COVER).

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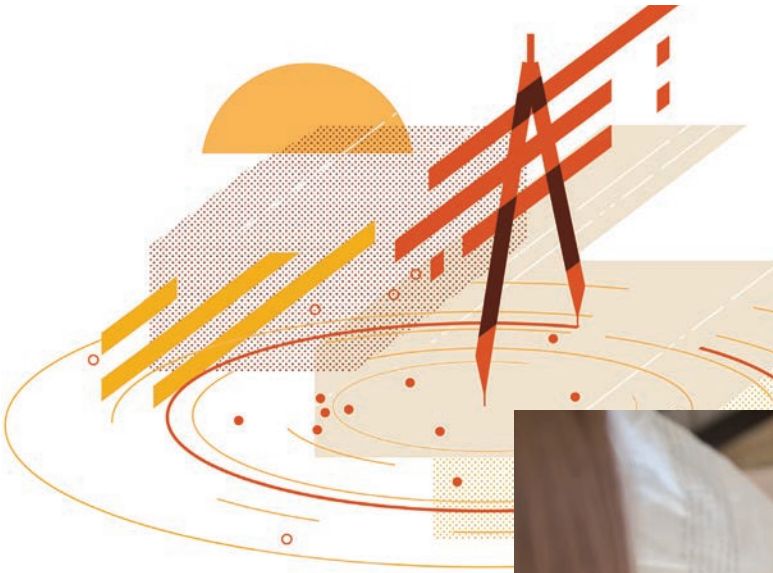
As California Masons change the world, these five young members are at the forefront, inspired by brotherhood and the lessons of the craft.

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## MORALS AND MACHINES

Every day, emerging technologies pose new ethical questions for our society. As technology advances, the stakes will only rise — and the near future may bring the greatest moral challenges in generations. It is up to each of us to seek the guidance we need to make informed decisions. Masonry can show us how.



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# EXECUTIVE MESSAGE

## OPPORTUNITIES YET TO COME

**I**t is often said that to predict the future, one needs only to review the past. These words of wisdom hold true in many situations, and Masons are not immune from this ideology. Yet we must also move beyond our past and strive for new, uncharted horizons. I encourage you to envision our fraternal future now: In which direction would you like to see our brotherhood move forward?

In my ideal future, our membership will increase — not dramatically, but proportionately to the good men in society. New members will bring vitality and dedication to our craft. Our lodges will choose flexible leases over aging infrastructure, lessening administrative and financial demands. New lodges will follow a European model, with smaller, more intimate groups of brothers. Technology will offer new capabilities, enhancing members' experience and propelling further study of our craft. We are connected through the lodge app now, but in the future, we'll also be connected on a larger scale — reaching brothers and families throughout divisions and the entire state. Our members will give generously to their lodges and our statewide charities because they are truly convinced of the inherent value within.

Perhaps some aspects of my imagined future seem radical now, but I believe that over time, goals like these will yield a better Masonic experience for all. Let us remember that the best days of Freemasonry lie ahead. Our past is glorious, but our future is illuminated by opportunities yet to come.



**JUNIOR GRAND WARDEN JOHN E. TRAUNER PAIRS HIS PROMISING VISION FOR CALIFORNIA MASONRY WITH A DEEP RESPECT FOR THE FRATERNITY'S PAST. WHILE GROUNDED BY THE PASTORAL LIFESTYLE OF HIS GENERATIONS-OLD RANCH IN ROUGH AND READY, HE IS INSPIRED BY BROTHERS FROM AROUND THE WORLD.**

*John E. Trauner*

John E. Trauner, Junior Grand Warden

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"As it has in the past, Freemasonry will play the role of an inspirational pillar — with the aim of building a better society in all possible contexts."

— @aliiiasghari

"Masonry builds better men through education. The men of today will raise the men of tomorrow and the values of Masonry will live on through future generations."

— @lux\_e\_tenebris

# THE FUTURE IS BRIGHT

What role will Freemasonry play in the future? Join the conversation by adding your perspective on social media, using the hashtag #futuremasons!

 [facebook.com/MasonsofCalifornia](https://facebook.com/MasonsofCalifornia)

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 [youtube.com/CaliforniaMasons](https://youtube.com/CaliforniaMasons)

"Freemasonry will be a larger part of people's lives. As machines do more work and we move beyond the age of scarcity, men will naturally turn to bigger questions and search for deeper meanings to this life. Masonry will offer a most excellent avenue for finding those answers."

— Eric Sharp

"Freemasonry will continue to be a moral compass in the world."

— Edwin Torres

"Freemasonry will help each of us become the person we are supposed to be so that we can begin to help others, changing the world one person at a time. We will become the shining light in the darkness, inspiring others to want to be around us to learn more about our magnanimous order."

— Drew Marsaw

"Masons will create change through our philanthropy and community partnerships."

— Omar Mustafa

Muhammad Baldwin

"The benefits to the world will draw from the strengths of each Mason. Strengthening the individual and lodge are the first steps."

— Adam Kendall

"Peacekeeping."

— Nicolas Degen

"The fraternity must present the principles it was founded upon in a way that is palpable and able to be understood and valued by a new generation. Never are Masonic principles needed more than in times of turmoil and never have humans lived in a more tumultuous time. Technology is changing everything."

— Michael Savage



# Five for the Future

IN COMMUNITIES AND INDUSTRIES  
THROUGHOUT THE GOLDEN STATE, CALIFORNIA  
MASONS ARE LEADING THE WAY. MEET FIVE  
YOUNG MASONS WHO ARE SHAPING THE FUTURE  
OF OUR FRATERNITY AND SOCIETY, INSPIRED  
BY A DESIRE TO CHANGE THE WORLD AND  
GROUNDED IN MASONIC VALUES.



## THE SEEKER

### VALDEIR FARIA F.

*Age 29*

*Secretary*

*Logos Lodge, U.D., San Mateo Lodge No. 226*

What inspires brothers to find further light in Masonry? For some, it's gentle prodding from a mentor. For others, it is a lifelong thirst for knowledge and understanding. Valdeir Faria F. falls into the latter category. After discovering Masonry by studying admirable historical men, he has twinned his interests in the fraternity and history, immersing himself in Masonic traditions from throughout the world. Calling upon his multicultural background and multilingual skills, Faria F. has developed a deep knowledge of worldwide Masonic rituals. ♦

*Read more: [freemason.org/Sept17Seeker](http://freemason.org/Sept17Seeker)*



A man in profile, looking out at a large aquarium tank filled with kelp and fish. The man is wearing a light blue button-down shirt and khaki pants. The background is a large, clear aquarium tank with kelp and fish visible.

# THE SCIENTIST

## MICHAEL SQUIBB

*Age 32*

*Fellow Craft Mason*

*Palo Alto Lodge No. 346*

The values of Freemasonry enlighten Michael Squibb's work at Stanford University's Hopkins Marine Station in Monterey Bay, where he monitors the health of the world's oceans using high-tech equipment anchored to the sea floor. "We are ultimately trying to help the people who rely on a healthy ocean for their livelihood," he explains. For Squibb, this crucial humanitarian element of his work mirrors "the virtues of service and charity that are central to Freemasonry"—and his desire to give back. ♦

*Read more: [freemason.org/Sept17Scientist](http://freemason.org/Sept17Scientist)*

PHOTOGRAPHED AT THE KELP FOREST OF THE MONTEREY BAY AQUARIUM.



A full-page photograph of Michael Thibodeaux, a man with a beard and mustache, smiling. He is wearing a light blue and white striped button-down shirt over a white t-shirt, and dark blue jeans. He is holding a brown leather baseball glove in his left hand. He stands on a grassy field with a black metal fence behind him. In the background, a wooden scoreboard is visible with the words 'HOME' and 'GUEST' and some numbers. The scene is lit with warm, golden-hour light.

# THE SAMARITAN

## MICHAEL THIBODEAUX

*Age 35*

*Past Master, Former Grand Standard Bearer, Masons4Mitts  
Captain, California Masonic Foundation Board Member  
Rim of the World Lodge No. 711, San Diego Lodge No. 35*

Family and philanthropy are at the heart of Michael Thibodeaux's Masonic experience. He's eager to share these values with the wider world, and most importantly, to lift up future generations, as his father and grandfather supported him. "A young person may be the next inventor or senator; someone who's going to impact society. But they need help," he says. "That's the core of what Freemasons do. We help people in need and we work to better society." ♦

*Read more: [freemason.org/Sept17Samaritan](http://freemason.org/Sept17Samaritan)*





# THE STORYTELLERS

**ROBERT DOAN | JOHNNY ROYAL**

*Age 34 | 41*

*Past Master | Marshall*

*Santa Monica-Palisades Lodge No. 307*

Writer/director Johnny Royal and producer Robert Doan are using their chosen medium of film to share the light of Freemasonry with the wider world. Their goal is to inspire intrigue about the enigmatic, age-old fraternity to non-members without revealing its mystique, and to forge connections between brothers and lodges. "It's my hope that through multitudes of Masons, our light will permeate the darkness," Doan says.

"Masonry really promotes the values of love and friendship," adds Royal. "It took making this film and talking to all of these brothers around the world to truly understand what that means." ♦

*Read more and watch the official trailer: [freemason.org/Sept17Storytellers](http://freemason.org/Sept17Storytellers)*









# MORALS — and — MACHINES

*by Keith Grose  
and Laura Benys*

**D**o you remember when the iPhone was introduced? It was 2007, and many regarded it as a luxury gadget for only the most tech-obsessed. Most of us had no idea just how revolutionary and influential it would become. That seems like a very long time ago. Today, the smartphone has not only pervaded society, it has changed it. It's also changed us: how we earn a living, how we connect with each other, how we wait in line. It's changed our attention spans and anxiety levels, and the very wiring of our brains. Just a decade ago, the world didn't know what to make of the smartphone. Now it's a challenge to convince most people to put theirs away for 20 minutes. What is strange today may be commonplace tomorrow. And, things are about to get stranger.






Cars that drive themselves. Smart drugs made of living cells. A surveillance drone that can teach itself about its environment because it is built with the learning capacity of a human brain. These examples sound like science fiction, but most are already reality, just waiting on our front steps (probably in an Amazon box), ready to be invited in. Others are around the corner and closing in fast. Many have the potential to shape society in ways as profound and unpredictable as the smartphone, if not more so.

Convenience, cure, security, entertainment: These are some of the benefits packaged within them. But there are ethical concerns, too, often buried in the fine print. Here, we look at just a few examples of technologies that will shape the future, and the moral questions they pose. Then we consider how Masonry can help the world look for answers.

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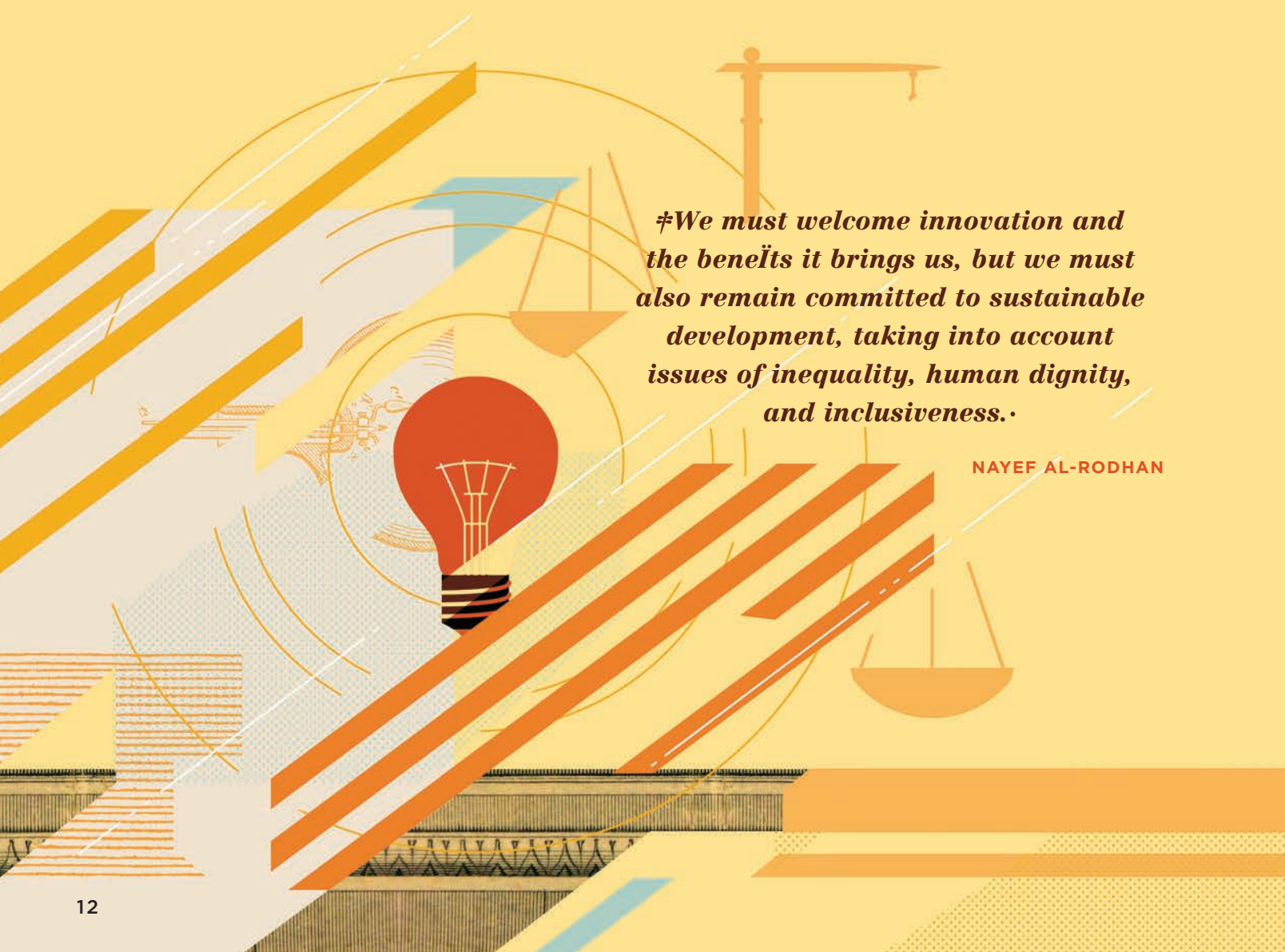


**FOR GENERATIONS NOW,** Aldous Huxley's "Brave New World," published in 1932, has been standard high school reading. In the novel's dystopian future, the population is genetically engineered, the human race has been bred into separate castes, and behavior is widely modified via artificial hormones.

In recent years, science has caught up with Huxley's imagination. Technology is moving in on the very building blocks of our existence: our cells. So-called nanobots (tiny robots the size of a millionth of a millimeter) could soon be used to track a person's hormones and automatically

administer antidepressants when levels dip. Viruses could soon be cured at the genetic level, thanks to technology that edits the DNA that causes them. Studies are underway to see if one gene-editing process, called CRISPR-Cas9, could be used to stop cancer cells from multiplying.

Needless to say, the potential benefits are extraordinary. Imagine how biotechnology could transform the life of someone afflicted with a debilitating disease. Instead of prescribing medicine that hammers bluntly away at symptoms (causing side effects only marginally more tolerable than the disease itself), a nanobot could go right to the source, dismantling the disease at its root. It could help a person live longer, certainly. It could also potentially rewrite the book on his or her quality of life.



***¶We must welcome innovation and the benefits it brings us, but we must also remain committed to sustainable development, taking into account issues of inequality, human dignity, and inclusiveness.***

NAYEF AL-RODHAN



Unfortunately, some of our most difficult moral questions fall under the “slippery slope” argument – that by allowing practices that seem beneficial today, we may start a dangerous trend that results in the unthinkable. Many emerging technologies are perched on a steep incline. It may not be too long before CRISPR-Cas9 or similar processes could be used to edit the genes of embryos found to have disease-causing mutations; for example, to remove the genes that cause Huntington’s Disease, a degenerative brain disorder. This begs the question: Should the technique be used for more than just diseases? What about to increase a child’s IQ, or even athleticism? To what extent should parents be allowed to change the genetic makeup of their future offspring? What about all the families without access to this technology: Since it’s likely to be very expensive, how would we prevent it being used to further stratify society? Hereditary traits can often impact longevity and quality of life – could we see an even larger disparity between the upper and lower classes as a result of genetic engineering?

These questions are just the beginning, and they’re not limited to biotechnology. Every branch of technology has its own dilemmas. Take driverless cars, also known as autonomous vehicles (AVs). These cars are rapidly becoming a reality, with traditional car manufacturers and technology firms racing to get their vehicles on roads across the world. The effects can hardly be understated. The advent of AVs will impact our city layouts: urban areas will no longer need to provide large parking areas; your car can simply park itself outside the city and come to you when needed. AVs on dedicated highways could easily move at 200 miles per hour, staying in constant communication with each other, like automata or a flock of birds. There is no question that a computer will be a better driver than a person: In 2013 there were roughly 33,000 motor vehicle-related deaths in the United States and more than 1.4 million worldwide – with more than 90 percent caused

by human error. By contrast, AVs can detect objects a human would be unable to see from a quarter mile away, and predict their movement using a retinue of LIDAR, RADAR, cameras, artificial intelligence, and software. The marvels of modern technology, indeed.

These features are compelling. But there are strings attached. The algorithms that direct AVs are written by humans. Many of them contain questions that hinge on the fundamental value of one human life versus another. Somehow, an AV needs to know what to do in every situation without human input. Thus, a programmer will have to code an answer to scenarios where the car must choose between protecting the driver, passenger, pedestrians, and surroundings.

Imagine taking an AV down Highway 1 for a cruise to Big Sur. The car comes whipping around the corner to find a

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compelled? In:  
proved of life,  
private proper

In all criminal prosecution  
and public trial, to be inform  
to be confronted with the wi  
for obtaining witnesses in his  
for his defence.



family crossing the road, with no option to swerve and miss them. Does the AV drive off the cliff, almost certainly killing the driver? Does it continue and hit the family? Should the AV be built to determine between the relative ages of the pedestrians to protect children? What if the passenger is an important surgeon or politician?

These questions may seem lifted from the pages of a college philosophy exam. They may seem hypothetical. But in five years, they will play out on the streets we use to get to work, daycare, and the corner store. They're already being coded into early models of AVs, far beyond the layperson's view. Who gets to answer them? MIT's Moral Machine Project is gathering public opinions on various scenarios – is crowd-sourcing the way to go? Should ethics experts decide? Or the owner of the car itself?

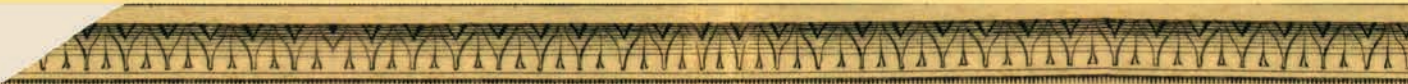
There is another problem here. Consider that an autonomous taxi or truck requires no lunch breaks, no vacation requests, no naps, and no overtime pay. Such vehicles will be far more efficient than those with human drivers. That sounds like a benefit, until we think about what AVs displace. There are roughly 230,000 taxi drivers in the United States, and 3.5 million truck drivers. What about them?

It's a question that looms larger with every advance in robotics and artificial intelligence (AI), and it goes well beyond self-driving cars. Sooner than we might be prepared for, robots and AI will replace most manual, repetitive jobs, even in industries once thought untouchable. A Japanese insurance company has already replaced their claims workers with IBM's Watson AI. The San Francisco Bay Area already has robotic coffee shops and pizza joints; what of the nation's 3.6 million fast food restaurant workers? Add to that automobile factory workers, and soon taxi and truck drivers, and workers from any number of other industries. According to an article posted by the World Economic Forum, "We already have robot lawyers capable of defending parking ticket violations, an AI that can deliver a medical diagnosis as well as a human doctor, robot 'journalists,' and even AI therapists that can outperform their human counterparts in terms of drawing out necessary personal information from patients."

There is a common saying in business: No one is irreplaceable. The latest technology gives it new urgency. What will become of the people whose jobs will soon be displaced? What work alternatives will they have in this modern era?

With automation already a fact of life, the question isn't so much "if" as "what and when": How can we recognize and support those stranded by changing times? This goes to the social contracts that bind us together. There are steps the world might take. Perhaps it's in the form of free job retraining, or much higher corporate taxes on automated industries. Perhaps it's to put a ceiling on personal net worth, or to provide a basic income for all citizens. Governments and think tanks are considering the possibilities, and countries such as India, Canada, and Finland are already experimenting with solutions. Finland just launched a pilot in 2017 to provide a basic income of \$580 to 2,000 unemployed citizens to see how effective it is in raising their livelihood. We shall see how the experiment bears out, and if other countries






are willing to try their own version. Regardless of the particulars, the livelihood of the majority may hang on whether our society can overcome its current tendency to maximize individual profit in order to protect the greater good.

As philosopher and neuroscientist Nayef Al-Rodhan stressed in a 2015 Scientific American article, “We must welcome innovation and the benefits it brings us, but we must also remain committed to sustainable development, taking into account issues of inequality, human dignity, and inclusiveness.”


*Equality. Human dignity. Inclusiveness.* These values are all deeply rooted within the culture of Freemasonry.



**IT IS AN INTRINSICALLY** human habit to alter our world through the tools we create. It is also intrinsically human to debate the moral consequences of doing so. In the 1700s, the Enlightenment trumpeted the idea that advances in technology and science could improve the human condition. By the industrialized 1920s, however, a pessimistic alternate narrative had arisen. Some philosophers argued that machines had imprisoned mankind in a cycle of production

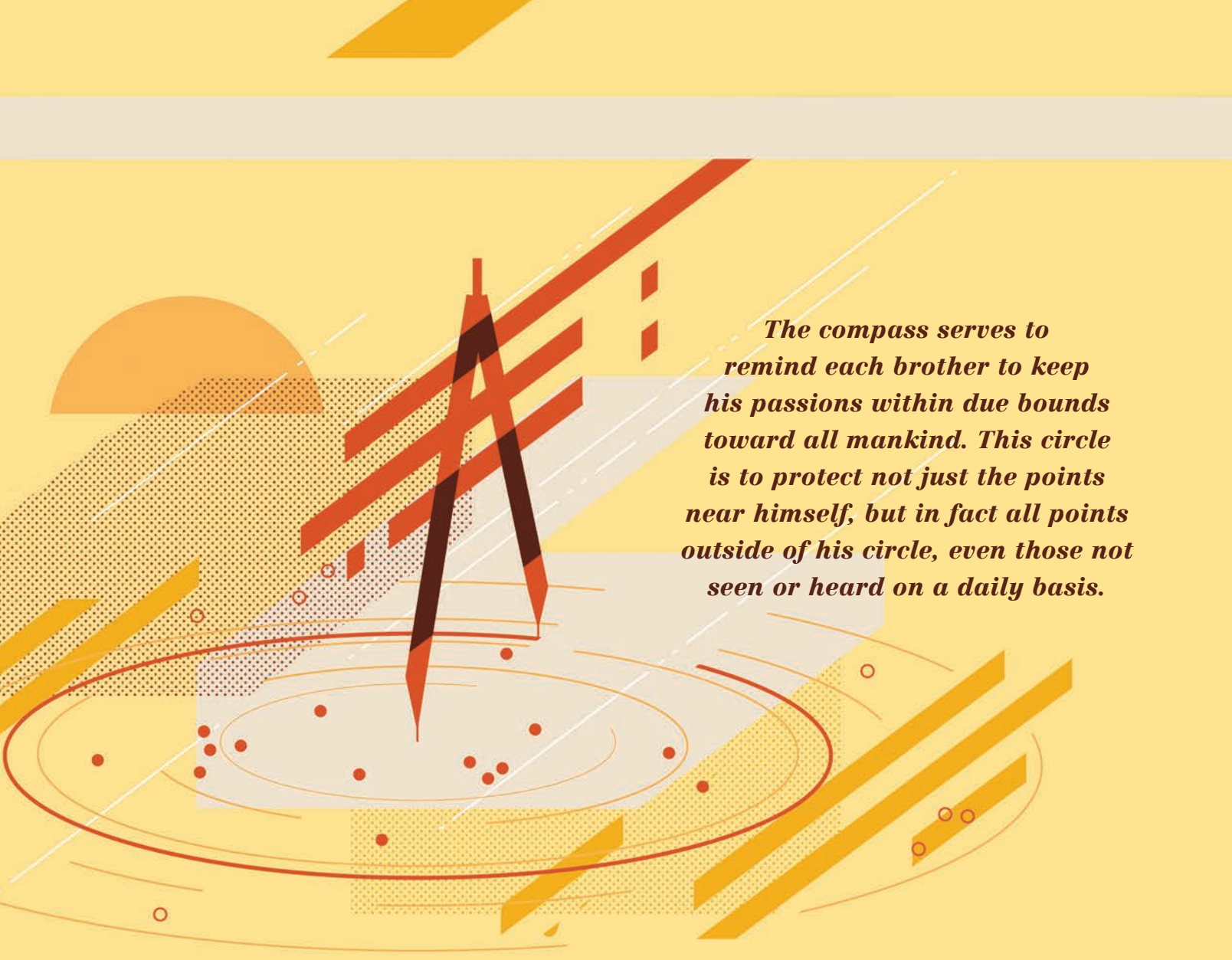
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***It is an intrinsically  
human habit to alter our  
world through the tools we  
create. It is also  
intrinsically human to  
debate the moral  
consequences of doing so.***





*The compass serves to remind each brother to keep his passions within due bounds toward all mankind. This circle is to protect not just the points near himself, but in fact all points outside of his circle, even those not seen or heard on a daily basis.*

and consumption. Now we are in yet another era. In this one, technology often seems to be advancing faster than we can debate and regulate it; the handful of examples above are just a few snowflakes in the avalanche.

Whether we are prepared or not, the near future may bring the greatest ethical challenges in generations. Many advances pit long-term consequences against short-term convenience, and the comparatively privileged individual against a varied and struggling society. A self-driving car can take evasive action to protect its driver, but what if it's at the expense of innocent pedestrians? A drug can dismantle a disease, but what if only the top one percent can afford it?

There is no answer key for these questions. We must simply do our best to consider them carefully, honestly, and with the greater good in mind.

This is where Masonry comes in. Through the moral education it provides, and its commitment to improving society, Freemasonry can help address the concerns that will take center stage in the coming decades.

Masonry instills fortitude, prudence, and integrity. It teaches self-restraint. Above all, it lays out a curriculum for morality. It urges us to "steadily persevere in the practice of every virtue." It provides tools for each of us to decide right from wrong, and to be an example of what's



right. And most importantly, it insists on setting aside time and space to do these things. Amid the impatience and reactivity of the 21st century, Masonry takes the long view, and a proactive stance. It begs us not to be complacent.

Society will need this Masonic wisdom to face the challenges ahead. Most of us aren't scientists. We may never grasp the inner workings of ever-changing technologies. But we must make the effort to understand, at least, their consequences; their potential to help and harm others. We must engage with these dilemmas, and see how and where we might make a difference.

Now more than ever, individual actions can have cascading effects on our communities, and communities throughout the world, for better or for worse. The "point within a circle" is a beautiful illustration of the charge that each Mason must draw a line around his own desires to protect the rights of others. Indeed, as one of the defining symbols of Masonry, the compass serves to remind each brother to keep his passions within due bounds toward all mankind. This circle is to protect not just the points near himself, but in fact all points outside of his circle, even those not seen or heard on a daily basis. We are all connected.

By physically bringing members together in a lodge room, and focusing on the timeless qualities that bind them, the fraternity drives this message home. It takes love of mankind out of the philosophical realm and embeds it in the heart. Masons know the phrase, "By square conduct, level steps, and upright actions we may hope to ascend to those ethereal mansions whence all goodness emanates." It's a reminder

to move forward side by side with fellow man, helping those who might not be able to make the ascent alone.

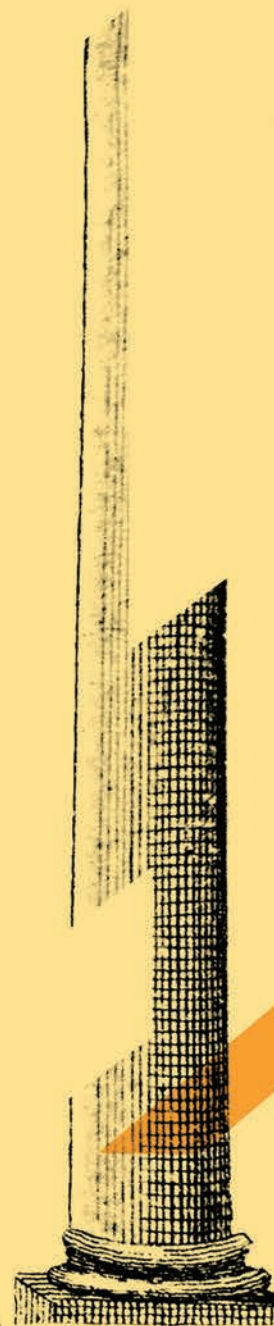
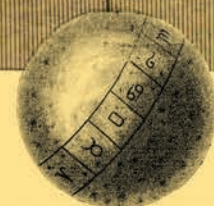
Masonic scholar J.S.M. Ward doubles down on this lesson for the future. In his article "The Moral Teachings of Freemasonry," he writes:

*When we look round the outside world and see how commercial competition has produced a spirit wherein the weakest are thrust to the wall and men say, "Let the devil take the hindmost," we see that this little phrase conveys, perhaps, one of the most important and salutary lessons needed by the present generation.*

*One of the great advantages of a lodge is that men rub shoulders with each other and learn that each is not the sole person in the lodge, but that others have their rights and are entitled to consideration... We are taught to subordinate our wills to the general good.*

In other words, we have to look out for each other. As the intersection of man and machine accelerates, it renders this message more urgent. In an age of screens, it's easy to lose sight of one another. In a wave of change, our basic instincts tell us just to stay afloat. But if we don't go to the trouble of struggling with right and wrong – if we don't honor our responsibilities to society and each other – then our very morality is at stake.

Masonry doesn't up give up on morality – it instills it. Society is about to face some difficult questions; it will need courage, guidance, and leadership to answer them conscientiously. Freemasonry can help show the way. ♦





## MASONIC EDUCATION

# The Future of Our Masonic Workshops

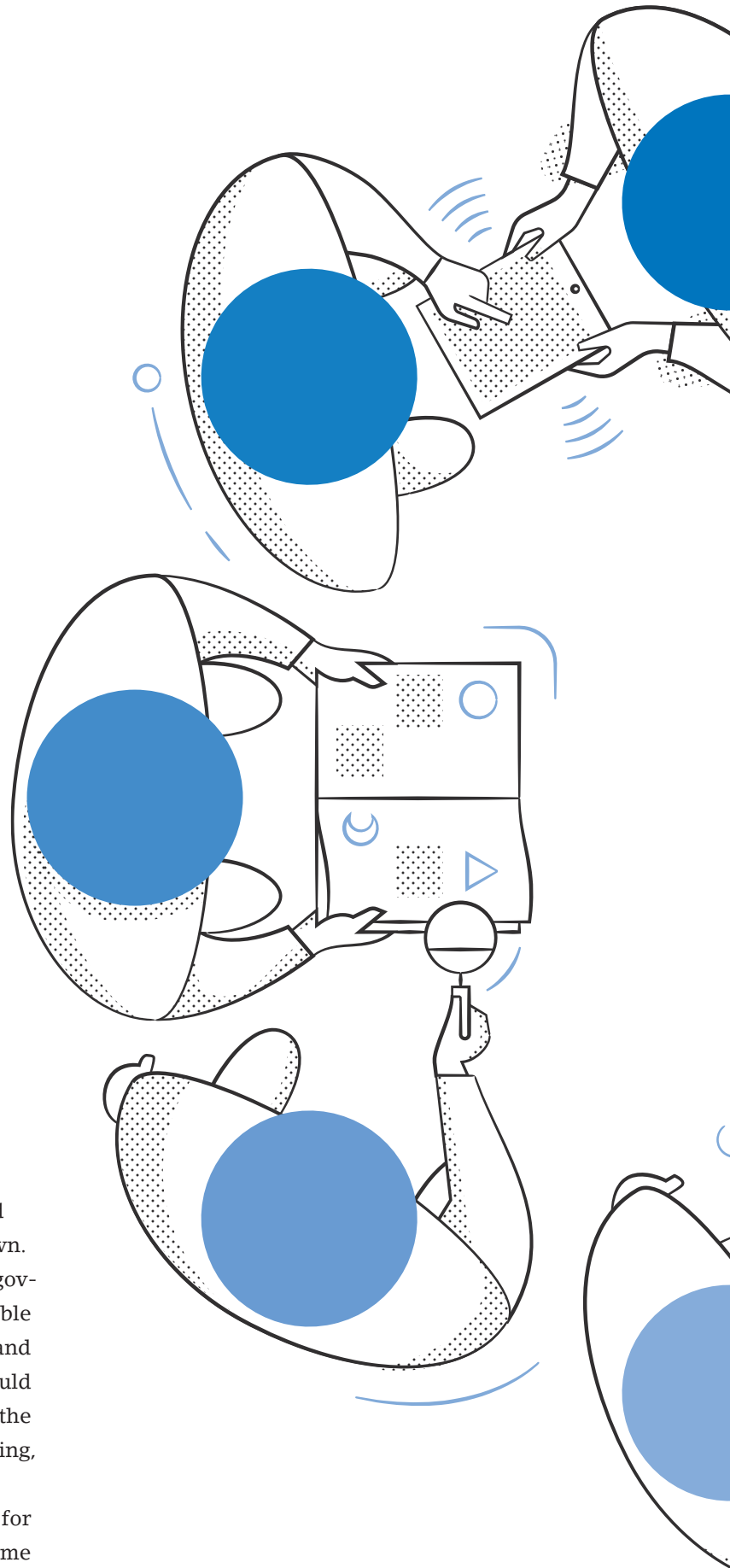
### IMAGINING WHERE OUR BROTHERHOOD MAY GO

*By John L. Cooper III, Past Grand Master*

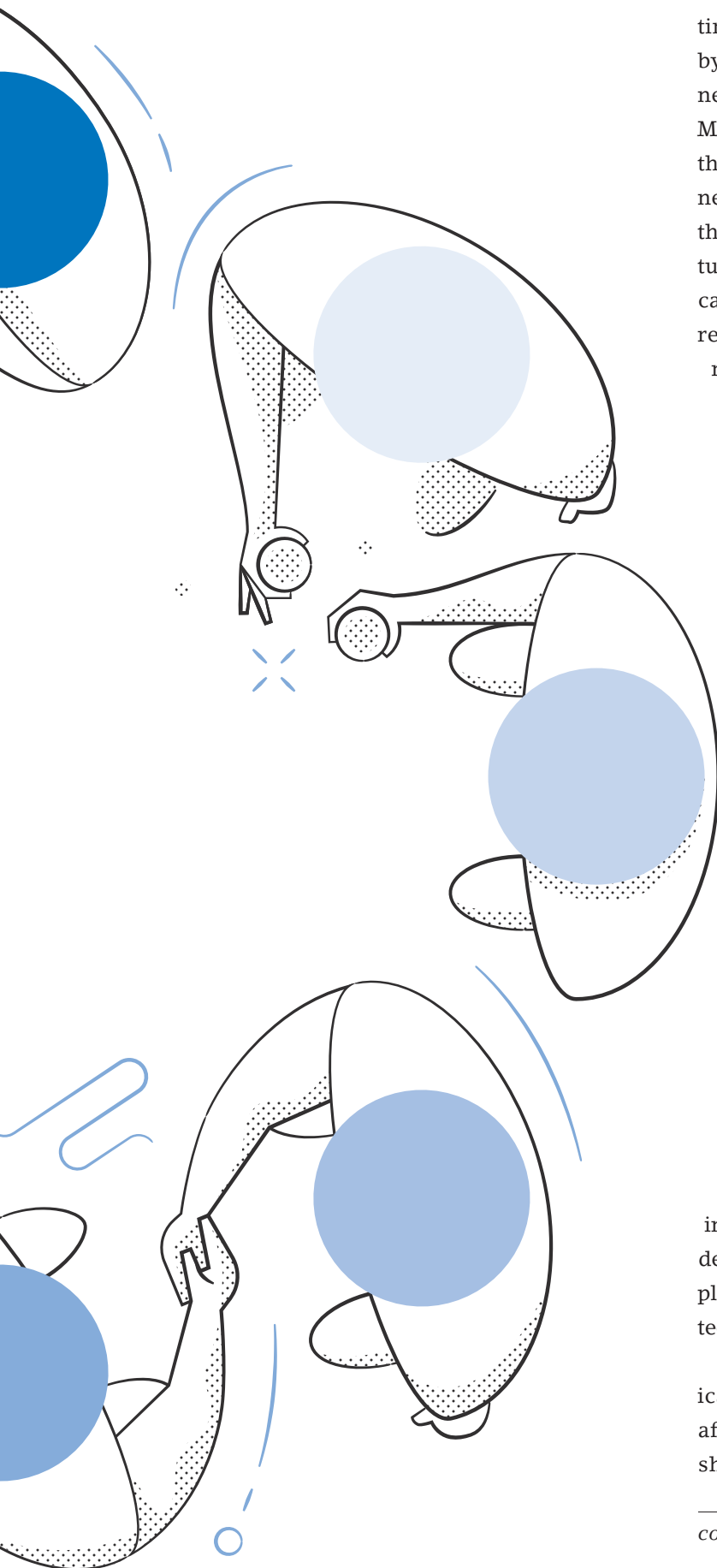
*While the tools and symbols of Freemasonry have remained constant since 1717, Masons' perception of the lodge as a workshop of Freemasonry has evolved. This article concludes a three-part series exploring this progression.*

We have now arrived at the last chapter of our study on the evolution and constancy of Masonic lodges. First, we learned that early lodges enjoyed convivial atmospheres where Masonic fellowship was celebrated around the festive board as the symbols and stories of Freemasonry were learned and passed down. Then, we learned how these lodges became centrally governed entities, led by grand lodges that facilitated notable advancements — such as colleges, Masonic homes, and public education support — that individual lodges could never have achieved alone. Now we have arrived at the third phase: the future. It is perhaps the most fascinating, as all of us play a central role in where it may lead.

The future may hold surprising developments for the lodge as a workshop of Freemasonry. Even as some







time-tested traditions endure, we continue to be shaped by the ever-innovative electronic revolution. The internet has made Masonic education easily accessible to any Mason willing to invest time in locating resources about the symbols and stories of our ritual, and it facilitates new, digital tools. The candidate education program of the Grand Lodge of California has embraced this opportunity by implementing an online tool: Where once a candidate was limited to educating himself through reading a book, or talking to other lodge members, he now can supplement this learning with a wealth of Masonic information available through the online Candidate Learning Center. The lodge app that many lodges have implemented allows members to stay informed about lodge life and connected with one another on one convenient, digital platform. And this is just the beginning.

If today's lodges are any indication, the future of the fraternity will herald a return to joyful lodge fellowship. Many modern lodges have embraced the good food and fellowship practiced at the festive board. As they integrate our California Masonic rituals with these festive boards, many Masons experience the joy of sharing around the dinner table a unique experience which some lodges call an "agape." Others maintain the business model of the stated meeting, yet host celebrations upon the "making of a Mason."

The identity of a "lodge" as a group of men connected to a particular building is evolving, moving away from the hall as an integral part of the lodge's identity. Lodges are fluid, able to meet where the brothers are. It is entirely possible that in the future, meetings could be held online, with members anywhere in the world. The use of "virtual reality" to enhance the degrees is already a possibility, and may become commonplace as more members who are accustomed to immersive technologies join our ranks.

Much lodge business can now be conducted electronically, saving time and making stated meetings quicker affairs so much more time can be devoted to fellowship and the exercise of brotherly love. There is even a

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movement in some lodges to leave business practices to the officers, freeing the rest of the membership to participate only in ritual practices and degrees, celebrations, and other fraternal activities that lend a sense of connection and belonging. Through social networks, members often know more about members of their lodge today than they ever could in the past. As more brothers embrace technologies like the lodge app, future lodge social networks will keep members in touch daily in a real-time experience.

Pooling resources and efforts through a grand lodge to promote great acts of public charity has expanded into major support for public schools, and other worthwhile endeavors in today's lodges. Many men come to the fraternity because they are drawn to brothers' familiar good work in their own communities and families. The gentle hand of Freemasonry continues to lift up and inspire, and through our efforts, this good work will endure. Charitable giving is easily done nowadays, with automatic gifts pulled from checking accounts and credit cards. The flow of information from grand lodge to lodges, and from one lodge to another has extended the possibilities of collective charitable action far beyond past capabilities. And, taking care of one another, as lodge brothers should, becomes ever easier as communications tools help members learn more easily of each others' struggles and potential needs.

All these transformations of the routine of our brotherhood may well inspire us to return to our roots as a strong community of men whose lives are inexorably entwined with one another. And the possibilities of interconnectedness may make us crave in-person fellowship around a festive board even more. In the end, I imagine, we will return to singing our early songs once more. Because despite the capabilities of technology and virtual connections, what could be more joyful than to gather around the table with a new Entered Apprentice, and sing once more the "Enter'd Apprentice Song"? ✨



## ENTER'D APPRENTICE SONG

Come let us prepare,  
We Brothers that are  
Assembled on merry occasion:  
Let's drink, laugh, and sing;  
Our wine has a spring:  
Here's a health to an Accepted Mason.

The world is in pain  
Our secrets to gain,  
And still let them wonder and gaze on;  
They ne'er can divine  
The Word or the Sign,  
Of a Free and Accepted Mason.

'Tis this, and 'tis that,  
They cannot tell what,  
Who so many great men of the nation  
Should aprons put on,  
To make themselves on  
With a Free and an Accepted Mason.

Great kings, dukes, and lords,  
Have laid by the swords,  
Our myst'ry to put a good grace on,  
And ne'er been ashamed  
To hear themselves named  
With a Free and an Accepted Mason.

Antiquity's pride  
We have on our side,  
An it maketh men just in their station,  
There's nought but what's good  
To be understood  
By a Free and Accepted Mason.

Then join hand in hand,  
To each, each other firm stand,  
Let's be merry, and put a bright face on:  
What mortal can boast  
So noble a toast,  
As a Free and an Accepted Mason.

# A FUTURE WITH FRATERNITY

## ACACIA CREEK MASONS FIND DEEP MEANING IN CAMPUS CONNECTIONS

*By Julie Bifano Boe*

When asked to describe the experience of living at Acacia Creek, residents often begin with the word “family.” For Masons at Acacia Creek, this meaning is two-fold: In addition to being part of a community that feels like a large welcoming family, it is also an opportunity for Masonic family members to share their retirement with fellow Masonic families. Though Masons and non-Masons alike call Acacia Creek home, the bustling community is imbued with shared Masonic values that make life all the more fulfilling. A future at Acacia Creek gives residents an opportunity for camaraderie, community involvement, and peace of mind.

### **FAITH, HOPE, AND CHARITY**

Joseph Elleard — an active Mason for 61 years, current member of Siminoff Daylight Lodge No. 850, and past master of Castro Valley Lodge No. 713 (now Crow Canyon Lodge No. 551) — was 86 when he and his wife, Gladys, moved to Acacia Creek.

As they weighed their retirement options, living amongst Masonic family was a clear priority. “My whole life has been in Masonry,” Elleard says.

Since Gladys passed away a year and a half ago, Elleard has found comfort and encouragement within the Acacia Creek community. At the

dinner table, he and fellow Acacia Creek Masons can often be found wrapped in enthusiastic discussions of the fraternity. Living in close proximity to the Masonic Home gives him “security, companionship, and many activities.” As many as eight residents have joined Siminoff Daylight Lodge No. 850, which meets on the neighboring Masonic Homes campus. “A past grand master lives here and there is an active lodge on the grounds,” he says. “We live in Masonry.”

Elleard finds great meaning in socializing with brothers who share the Masonic principles of faith and hope, and participating in charity work. A favorite cause of Elleard’s is Shriners Hospitals for Children in Sacramento, a Masonic philanthropy that treats children suffering from orthopedic challenges, burns, cleft palates, and other ailments — all at no charge. He has sponsored nearly 30 children.

Acacia Creek’s social environment also appeals to Elleard. He is active in woodworking and other crafts, and is a member of the Model Airplane Club. On Saturday mornings when the wind is calm, members meet at the hilltop airstrip to fly their planes. “Sometimes our planes fly off into the wild blue yonder, but citizens will return them to us,” he jokes. With the philanthropic contributions that brothers such as Elleard spread throughout the community, it is no wonder citizens return the lost model airplanes.

### **A DESIRE TO GIVE BACK**

Relief through philanthropy is a trend for brothers living at Acacia Creek.

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ACACIA CREEK MASONS ARE IMMERSSED IN THE FRATERNAL SPIRIT OF THE MASONIC HOMES. SHOWN HERE ARE THREE LONG-TIME MASONS AND ACACIA CREEK RESIDENTS (LEFT TO RIGHT): JOSEPH ELLEARD, HARVEY MCANINCH, AND JOHN MASON.



Harvey McAninch, a Mason since 1987 and lifetime member of Menlo Park Lodge No. 651 and Burlingame Lodge No. 400, joined the fraternity because of his gratitude for the Shriners Hospitals for Children. "My niece was born with physical ailments that were severe," he says. "The St. Louis Shriners Hospital provided care all through her high school years at no charge."


He and his wife, Karon, have lived at Acacia Creek for four years and continue to find ways to give back. On occasion, McAninch entertains children at the local Shriners Hospital with his clown act. He also plans to donate the proceeds from selling his former Santa Clara home to the hospital. "Being a Mason is meaningful to me because it allows me to give my time and myself," he says.

Although he is not a member of Siminoff Daylight Lodge, McAninch enjoys participating in lodge functions and meeting other brothers. And, he has enjoyed sharing his appreciation for the Shriners Hospital with fellow Acacia Creek residents, Masons and non-members. During the holiday season, residents in Acacia Creek's "90 Plus Club" (all residents over age 90) arranged a \$5,000 donation to the hospital, which they presented in person. McAninch plans to arrange a similar donation and trip this year. "Living at Acacia Creek is like living with a large family. We feel secure here," he says.

### BUILDING CONNECTIONS

At 94, John Mason is the kind of nonagenarian many people aspire to become. A Mason for more than 50 years and member of Bay Cities Lodge No. 337, Mason has been an Acacia Creek resident for the past seven years. When his wife of 52 years, Joan, passed away, he liked the idea of a community that would remove the hassle from daily living while providing lots of opportunities to stay busy. "Many activities here are centered around fellowship and charity, and Acacia Creek keeps you active," he says. One of his favorite activities is catching up with friends during Monday morning bingo.

Having a chance to participate in the Masonic Homes community and Siminoff Daylight Lodge is an important part of his experience — from dinners to installations and degrees. He enjoys meeting brothers from all over the United States who choose to retire at the Masonic Home. "The Home has a map that marks the locations of where brothers have come from," he explains. Brothers from




## ACACIA CREEK



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nearby are a welcome surprise, too: While attending a recent barbecue, Mason recognized a fellow brother from Bay Cities Lodge who had recently moved in next door.

Though well settled in retirement, Mason has an eye towards the future, and he believes that Masonry will play a lasting, positive role through its timeless values of truth, charity, and brotherly love. And, as more and more brothers plan their retirement years, Acacia Creek is likely to grow in popularity as a secure, comfortable, and fellowship based option. The active involvement and leadership of brothers, like Elleard, McAninch, and Mason strengthen the community, facilitate brotherly bonds, and make relief through philanthropy a common practice. Residing at Acacia Creek assures prospective residents that Masonic values will be shared, brotherhood bonds will grow, and plenty of fun will be had. ✧



# Voices of Masonic Youth

## WINNING STORY: MASONIC YOUTH SHORT FICTION COMPETITION

### My Masonic Family

By Maria Aylesworth

Wow — Can you believe it? It is finally 2070 and I am so excited that the next decade is here! But the most important thing for me is that about a month ago I became a Rainbow Girl.

Let me tell you a little bit about The International Order of the Rainbow for Girls. My Rainbow sisters are all so close that sometimes it feels like we are truly sisters. We help each other to grow to become more confident and to become leaders. Our ritual work is very important to us, and we help each other with memorization. My assembly works very hard to help our community. Rainbow teaches us to put others' needs before our own and gets us ready for the road ahead.

You might be interested in what kind of service projects we do for our community. Last term my assembly raised funds to get a million trees planted to grow a rainforest for animals that have lost their habitats. We raised the

funds by having an old-fashioned cookout where the “steaks” (that were plant based) were cooked over an open fire.

Now we host all our meetings and official visits of the grand worthy advisor (OVs) online in a secure 3-D digital world, where we capture a 3-D image of ourselves and enter into a private meeting room. It has made dressing and arriving for meetings easier — you only have to go online and find a dress to paste onto your 3-D image, then sign in to your assembly room and you are all ready to go. Hosting our meetings online has made it possible for more girls to attend more OV's and local Rainbow meetings around the world. Traveling in person is also more efficient because now we use mobile vehicles that use a type of energy that only releases carbon dioxide and water. Ever since people found a way to run cars on fuel that releases harmless by-products, we have managed to stop air pollution.

I am also super excited to start our next big project for the term, which is called Renew. Our mission is to raise money to help animals that are on the brink of extinction. While we raise money to help endangered animals I hope that we are also able to make more people aware of the fact that it is no longer necessary to hunt these animals for their fur, tusks, or other products, as these animal materials can now be 3-D printed from a single cell.

I am most grateful for all the help and guidance our assembly receives from our Masonic family. The Masons and Eastern Star members help us in any way they can. Most of all, they serve by being role models and working beside us. They do not do everything for us, but instead teach us to do things on our own with their guidance. Without our Masonic family, we would be lost. ✧

*Editor's Note: Maria Aylesworth, 13, is a member of the International Order of Rainbow for Girls, San Jose Assembly No. 5. She is the first-place winner of the first-ever California Freemason Masonic Youth Short Fiction Competition, which asked members to write an original short story about the Masonic family in the year 2070. Congratulations to Maria and our finalists!*



Read stories by the second and third-place winners in the online edition at [freemason.org/Sept17Stories](http://freemason.org/Sept17Stories).

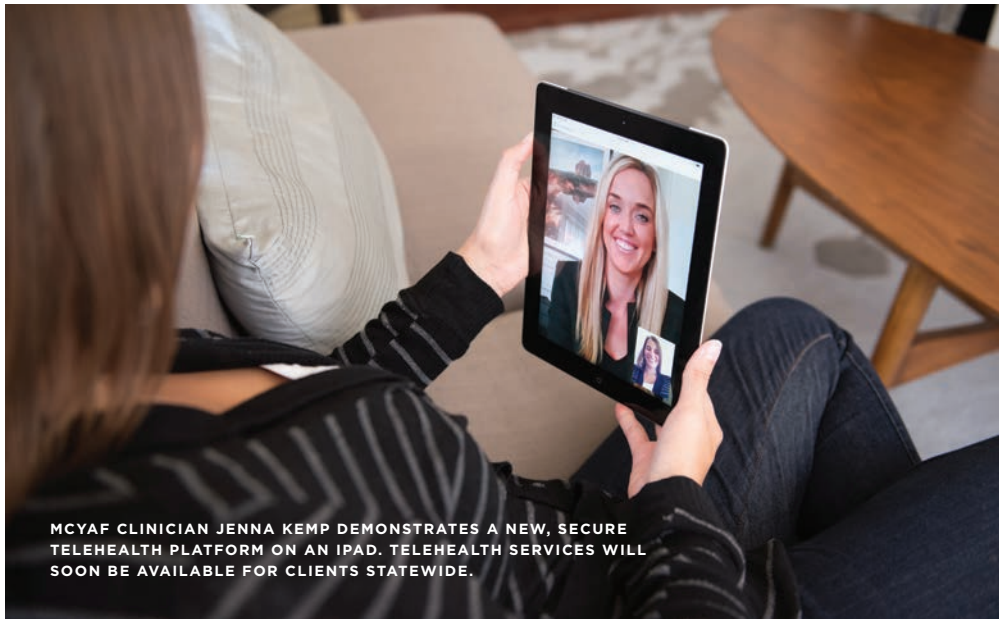
**2ND PLACE:** Kole Kurowski,  
“The Masons of the Future”

**3RD PLACE:** Madeleine Pollara,  
“The Beauty and Grace”

# WHAT WE MIGHT ACHIEVE

## CONTEMPLATING THE FUTURE OF THE MASONIC HOMES OF CALIFORNIA

*By Laura Benys*



It wouldn't have been imaginable at the 2011 opening of the Masonic Center for Youth and Families (MCYAF). But soon, MCYAF therapists will be able to reach children who need their specialized therapeutic services in even the remotest regions of California.

MCYAF, which has clinic sites in Covina and San Francisco, is preparing to pilot a telehealth program, enabling Masonic families to meet with counselors over a secure video connection from home. Over the next 10 years, telehealth is projected to be part of most hospital, pharmacy, and employer business models. For MCYAF, it extends crucial mental health services to remote communities, and families who are hesitant to seek help in person. For many young people — for whom interacting through a screen is the norm — telehealth can feel safer than talking in person, and early research suggests it may have similar outcomes as a face-to-face visit.

"A lot of people use smartphones to connect, and it's impacted our field significantly," says Jenna Kemp, MCYAF clinician and project coordinator. By using new

technologies in a positive way, MCYAF can reach families no matter where they live — while breaking down barriers of stigma and shame that might have prevented them from seeking needed care.

"Imagine the impact for every vulnerable child who can't travel to one of MYCAF's clinics," Kemp says. "This is the wave of the future."

### AN EYE FOR INNOVATION

From its programs for children to its early focus on successful aging, the Masonic Homes of California has always had an eye for innovation — and thanks to the generosity

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## NEW! CARE RESOURCES IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Whether you're a first-time or long-term caregiver, finding resources in your community can be time-consuming. The Masonic Value Network can help!

Our web resource can point you towards independent care-related providers in categories such as in-home care and senior communities.

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## WE'RE HERE TO HELP

The many services offered through the Masonic Homes of California help Masonic family members of all ages stay healthy and safe.

- Information and referral services (All members are eligible!)
- Residential senior communities in Covina and Union City
- Statewide Masonic Outreach Services for seniors and families
- Transitions short-term rehabilitation and respite care in Union City
- Masonic Center for Youth and Families in San Francisco and Covina

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**Masonic Homes  
of California**

of California Masons, the resources to pursue it. In the future, the Homes will be able to do even more.

Consider what the next few decades could bring for outreach. More and more seniors are choosing to age at home, a trend the Homes responded to in the early 2000s by creating Masonic Outreach Services (MOS). Today MOS and lodges have stretched a safety net throughout California, connecting elder brothers and their spouses with services that help keep them safe at home. Imagine how this mission could be maximized with the advent of new technology. Floor sensors track footstep patterns and warn of potential falls. Webcams will allow elders to see the faces of their loved ones at the push of a button, and give caretakers the ability to keep an eye out for their well-being. Simple robots will soon track whether medication is being taken, help with cooking, and assist with household tasks. Most of these gadgets are already available in some markets, and their cost and effectiveness improves every day. With resources and support, MOS could help fraternal family integrate them into their lives, and enter a new era of aging at home.

Masonic Homes residents will be part of the changing tide. At last year's Masonic Communities & Services Association Conference, the Union City campus furnished two "Smart Home" apartments: living spaces retrofitted with cutting edge technology. They provided a glimpse of how Internet-connected household items (for example, the Amazon Echo and a responsive lighting system) can be inexpensively integrated into existing architecture to improve safety and quality of life. A sensor triggers soft floor lights when a resident gets out of bed in the middle of the night; another switches living room lights off when they leave. Wearable devices that track heart-beat, respiratory rate, and movement patterns could guide medical care plans. And thanks to its northern campus's proximity to Silicon Valley, the Homes has a unique opportunity to set the bar for integrating technology in senior care.

The future will show up on campus in other ways. A culture shift is taking place in senior care, reflecting Baby Boomers' desire for activity, autonomy, and high-end amenities. The Masonic Homes master plan, Roadmap 2020, embraces this new ethos by emphasizing vibrant communities and person-directed care. This means that the fraternity can lead senior care in its infrastructure, as well as philosophy. Last year, the Transitions short-stay rehabilitative and respite care program opened on the Union City campus, offering hotel-style amenities for residents and clients recovering from neurological, cardiac, and other surgeries. New skilled nursing facilities are already planned for both campuses. Community centers will be at the heart of each campus. Old, outdated buildings will be updated to reflect best practices in the design of senior living spaces.

Partnerships will be vital for the future of health care, and the Homes has already been able to nurture key relationships: Last year, the Masonic Homes worked with Washington Hospital on a short-stay rehabilitative and respite care program for the Home's Union City campus, and both campuses recently partnered with professor and researcher T.J. McCallum, who uses technology to combat memory loss. The Masonic Value Network was introduced, providing a list of reputable independent providers for Masonic families statewide to consider for their care needs. These examples are mere previews of what the Homes may achieve in the years to come — from new care services to research contributions, and perhaps someday, preferred provider relationships and rates for California Masonic families.

#### A NEW ERA FOR FRATERNAL RELIEF

When it comes to helping families in the immediate future, MCYAF is focused on educating Masonic youth orders about all of its services, including the new telehealth initiative. This could lead to a broader telehealth rollout down the road. Kimberly Rich, MCYAF's executive director, hopes MCYAF can eventually build relationships with public schools, so more at-risk families will know where to turn for quality mental health care.

"California Masons are bringing high quality care to families who wouldn't otherwise have access to it, and to children who really need the support," says Rich. "This goes back to the Masons' obligation to take care of others. They're doing it to leave the world a better place than they found it." ❖

#### WEB EXTRA

Web extra: Read more about the Masonic Homes Roadmap 2020 and continuing progress at [masonichome.org/Roadmap2020](https://masonichome.org/Roadmap2020).

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# A Festive Board Marks a Milestone

During a once-in-a-lifetime celebration on June 24, 2017, Grand Master John R. Heisner rang in the 300th anniversary of Freemasonry in London, England, where the first grand lodge formed on that same day 300 years before. The Metropolitan Grand Lodge of London and its deputy grand master, Stephen Fenton, hosted a lively festive board. Nearly 100 California Masons joined their British compatriots for an evening of merriment — complete with rousing speeches and jolly toasts! ✨

*View more images of the event at [freemason.org/Sept17Festive](http://freemason.org/Sept17Festive)*



GRAND MASTER JOHN HEISNER  
RAISED A GLASS WITH RIGHT  
WORSHIPFUL STEPHEN FENTON OF  
THE METROPOLITAN GRAND LODGE  
OF LONDON AND CALIFORNIA  
GRAND SECRETARY ALLAN CASALOU.





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- » Find care-related providers and resources in your area
- » Access offerings and educational materials from independent service providers
- » Convenient online access is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week