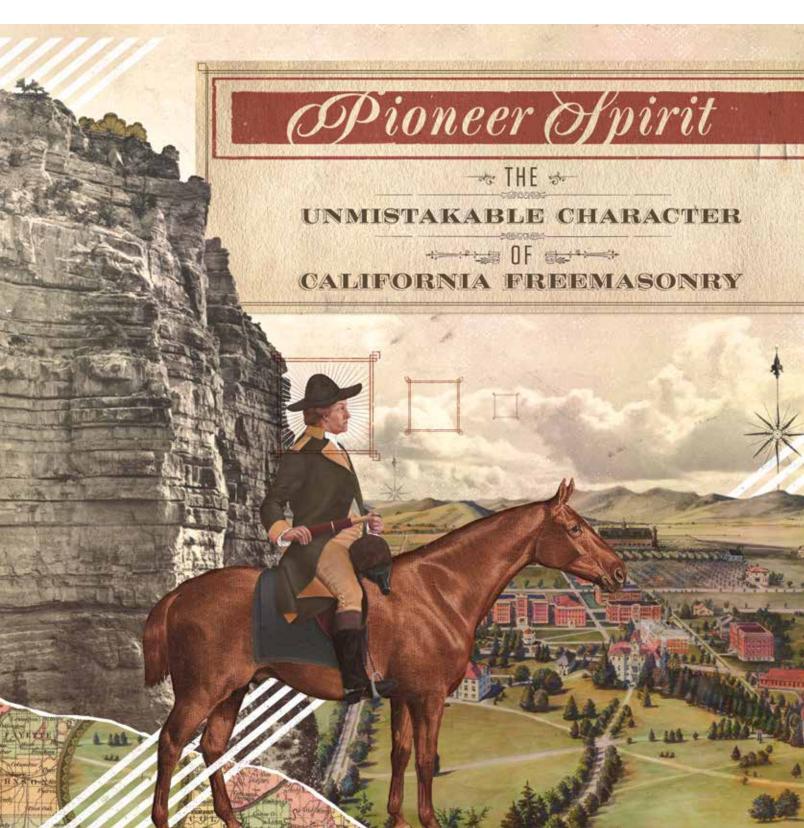
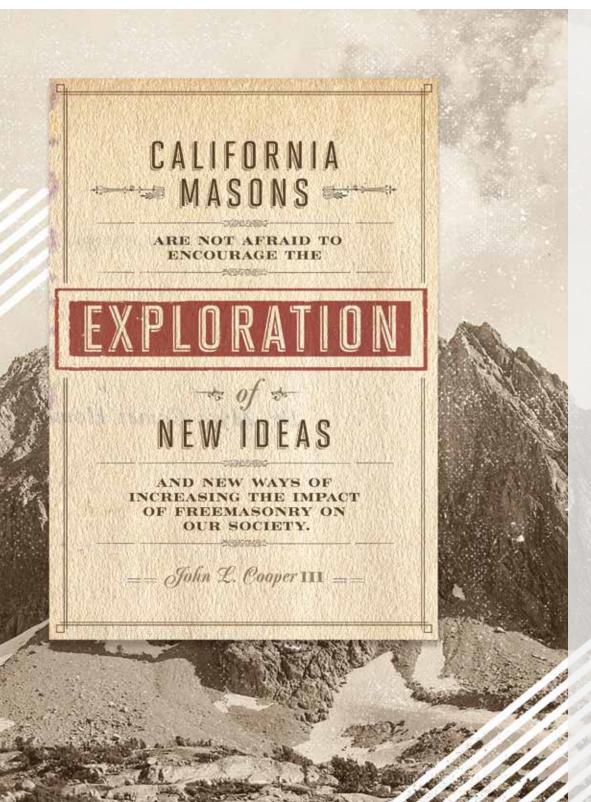
# **CALIFORNIA**

# FREEMASON





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# CALIFORNIA FREEMASON

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# Pioneer Spirit

Tell someone from elsewhere in the U.S. that you live in California, and he'll have an opinion. Tell someone from another country, and she'll know exactly which state you mean. From its Gold Rush past to its Silicon Valley present, California has a certain shine. So does its fraternity. Take an indepth look at the history that made California Masonry what it is today, and the qualities that still set it apart from every other jurisdiction.



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Take a look at California Masonry from our members' perspectives.

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John Cooper explains how early American Masons' decision to organize grand lodges by state affected Masonry in the fledging United States – and the world.

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Even before the first lodges were established in California, one brother was shaping the future of the Golden State. The story of how our great state came to be is one of bravery, integrity, and keen decision-making by Mason John Drake Sloat. John F. Lowe, Grand Master

She F. Jane

# Beyond the Lodge

From the earliest days explorers found trails over the Sierras and began traversing what was to become California, Freemasons have been an integral part of the fabric of this golden place. Trappers and traders, gamblers, and fortune hunters all made their way to a new land filled with riches. And then in 1849, the gold discovery in Coloma telegraphed to all that California was indeed filled with gold; that precious metal was there for the taking.

Men from faraway places found their way to Coloma, Placerville, and other towns that are now long forgotten to seek their fortune. Many, many of them were Freemasons from other states, territories, and countries. They met in makeshift lodges – in tents and above saloons or general stores. Soon, five lodges together formed the Grand Lodge of California, and Freemasonry was permanently established in Northern California – first in Sacramento, then San Francisco, the center of commerce and finance on the West Coast. Whether remembering Saschel Woods, who traveled across the country with a lodge charter in his boot, or John Sloat racing his frigate north from Mazatlan to claim California for the United States, we have a rich heritage as Masons and as innovators that continues today.

California has always had a pioneering spirit, an internal voice that drives us to innovate and move technology forward. Silicon Valley exists in only one place – here. Aircraft pioneers found the right stuff, right here in California. The Internet may not have been invented here, but where else would Google, Apple, eBay, or Facebook have made their homes but here?

And innovation continues inside our fraternity as well: Your Grand Lodge continues to innovate in ways to make member experience more meaningful, in ways to prepare our lodge officers for leadership roles, and in ways to make us proud to be California Masons. The California Masonic Foundation has initiated the Investment in Success scholarship program — a new way to enable college education for a dedicated but underserved portion of graduating high school students. The Masonic Center for Youth and Family is breaking new ground every day in providing a model of mental health diagnosis and treatment for our youth that is unavailable anywhere else in the country.

You will read in this issue that, in the midst of economic downturn, one lodge has come together and persevered to ensure Freemasonry remains in its rightful place in the community. Does this require innovative ideas and plans? Absolutely!

As we begin this new Masonic year together, let us pause to remember that our brethren who came before us made sure that our state benefitted from our Masonic ideals, ethics, beliefs, and, most importantly, our hard work for the benefit of others. When you go to lodge for your next meeting, stop at the door for a moment. Turn and look outward at the community which you and your members serve, and reflect on what you see. Are your schools in need of adult mentors to read to children in the primary grades? Are you supporting Raising A Reader to build a legacy of literacy and strong families for future generations of Californians?

Are there other needs that go wanting but for the help of a few good Masons? It is time to look across this golden land once again, for the opportunity to serve, to innovate, and to reconnect with our brethren that paved the way so long ago.

I hope you will join with me as we move Beyond the Lodge. &

# PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS

To give members a chance to show Masonry from their own perspectives, last spring, the fraternity launched its first-ever photo contest. The theme was *Masonic People* and entries were judged by thousands of Facebook fans, from throughout California and around the world. Thank you to everyone who participated and congratulations to our winners!

Continued next page

# **IN CALIFORNIA**

Girst place

submitted by JAMES R. RUALO

CORONADO LODGE NO. 441





Second place

submitted by JIM DURAN

CHINO VALLEY LODGE NO. 427





# THIS, TOO, SHALL PASS

# IN STOCKTON, A SYMBOL OF STABILITY DURING TOUGH TIMES

by Laura Normand

On June 28, 2012, Stockton became the largest city in the U.S. to file for bankruptcy. Plagued by debt, crime, unemployment, and foreclosure, Reuters recently referred to it as "the new paradigm for struggling cities."

"When I tell someone I live in Stockton, they ask why," admits John Baker, who was born and raised there. "But it's still home."

### Main street America

Baker is the secretary of Morning Star Lodge No. 19 and president of the Temple Association. Four or five times a week, he gets a phone call asking about the Masonic building on East Main Street. The lodge rents out the third floor public areas, which include a ballroom, dining room, and kitchen. Rather than describe it by phone, Baker will urge callers to meet him there. (He will suggest allotting several hours, because there's plenty to see, and he is a talker.)

Simply put, the Stockton Masonic temple is big, old, and stunning. "It runs chills up and down your spine," Baker says. With its medieval façade, 24-foot coffered ceilings, and ornate interior, it's like walking into a museum. It even houses an antique theater pipe organ, installed during construction.

But the real magic isn't in the architecture or the one-of-akind features. It's that, for the past 90 years, the building has been right there at the heart of downtown.

# A city remembered

Located on a channel 90 miles inland of San Francisco Bay, Stockton has been a major gateway, supply, and transportation center throughout the state's history. The first Masonic lodges formed in Stockton in 1852, two years after California became a state and one year after the city was formally incorporated.

The building at 340 East Main St. is the third to house the city's Masons. Completed in 1922, it had barely been dedicated before it was tested by hardship. As the country reeled from the Great Depression, Stockton Masons scraped by.

"During the Depression, there were a lot of financial problems," Baker says, "but none that the lodge couldn't handle. At that time, Masonry was still growing. By the 1950s, it had grown so big that there were five lodges in Stockton."

Baker, a third-generation Mason, was just a boy at that time.

"This is the same building I ran around in as a teenager,"
Baker says. "Does that feel good? Darn right it does."

# "Always has been, always will be"

Years ago, Morning Star Lodge did explore the idea of selling the temple and building another further from downtown, with the convenience of its own parking lot. But when they crunched the numbers, it made financial sense to stay put. It made emotional sense, too.

"The fraternity is family. I don't know any other way to explain it," says Baker. "And the lodge building is our family home. Always has been, always will be. It's our job to take care of it."

Members made it a priority to do just that. About three years ago – yes, in the middle of the recession – the lodge poured funds into a complete remodel of the ground floor spaces. They added heat and central air conditioning; finished floors and put



in new carpets; and altered bathrooms and doors to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). They even went to the extraordinary cost of replacing the frontage sidewalk to meet ADA standards. The old heating system has been replaced with energy efficient units.

"We've upgraded it all at lodge expense, with the determination that we are going to stay downtown as an integral part of the Stockton community," Baker says.

It hasn't always been easy. To make ends meet some months, the lodge had to choose which bills to pay in full and which to make a partial payment on. Maintenance repairs for the old building are both expensive and never-ending, and many members donate not just time, but money to stay on top of them.

"When we need a couple gallons of bleach or floor wax, it just shows up," says Baker. "Who bought it? Nobody knows. That's how the fraternity operates. We're dedicated to this place. And it's important that we're downtown – because of the heritage."

# Something to believe in

In the aftermath of filing for Chapter 9 bank-ruptcy; in the bleak climate of foreclosures, unemployment, and an onslaught of bad press; that word, *heritage*, takes on new significance. A beautiful old building is a reminder that, even when so much seems

to give way, some things remain rock solid. It's a symbol of resilience. And, in a city that's been raked through the coals, it's something to be proud of.









I ask Baker about the importance of having something permanent and historic to hang onto during a time of uncertainty.

"The word you're looking for," he tells me kindly, "is stability."  $\diamond$ 

# THE CALIFORNIA MASON

With more than 65,000 members, if there's one thing that's certain about the 'typical' California Mason, it's that he doesn't exist. The broad spectrum that makes up this fraternity demonstrates that there is no typical California Mason and there is no typical California Masonic lodge. The Masons of California is an organization that defies stereotype. Across the state, members represent a diverse range of professions, cultural identity, religion, and age.

**Total Number of Members: 65,523** 

(Includes Entered Apprentices and Fellow Crafts)

Master Masons currently serving as lodge officers

**6.82**%





We asked our 11,500+ Facebook fans to describe the modern California Mason in one word. Here's what you said:

.....

Adaptable	Faithful	Focused
Youthful	Loving	Inspired
Engaging	Knowledgeable	Resilient
Contemplative	Diverse	Friend
Honorable	Inclusive	Family
Righteous	Iconic	Caring
Busy!	Loyal	Real





# **Facts about California Master Masons**

Average age: 67 years, 1 month ///// Youngest member: 18 Average number of years of membership: 30 years 7 months







# **SMALLEST LODGE:**

Paideia No. 852

**11 active Master Masons** 

# LARGEST LODGE:

Long Beach No. 327

**576 active Master Masons** 

# ONE GRAND LODGE OR FIFTY?

IN THE EARLIEST DAYS OF AMERICAN MASONRY, OUR FOUNDING FATHERS' APPROACH TO DEMOCRACY WAS MIRRORED IN THE CRAFT.

by John L. Cooper III, Deputy Grand Master

Many Masons know that President George Washington was a Mason, and that he served as the master of Alexandria Lodge No. 22 (now Alexandria-Washington Lodge No. 22) in Alexandria, Virginia, while serving as President of the United States. What many do not know is that there was a movement to make him the grand master of a Grand Lodge of the United States of America, which would have merged all the individual state grand lodges into one national organization. President Washington turned down this offer, and thus no national grand lodge ever came into existence. It may have been one of the best gifts that our brother, George Washington, gave to American Freemasonry.

Before the American Revolution, lodges in the thirteen colonies owed allegiance to one of three different grand lodges: They held charters from one of two grand lodges in England (either the Moderns or the Ancients), or from the Grand Lodge of Scotland. The Grand Lodge of Ireland also chartered some lodges in connection with military and naval units, and one such lodge was later the source of Prince Hall Freemasonry. When the Treaty of Paris was signed in 1783, recognizing the American

colonies as independent states, new grand lodges were quickly organized in each of the former English colonies. These state grand lodges absorbed the lodges within their boundaries, and became the source of legitimate Freemasonry in the United States. But just as each state was jealous of its own prerogatives as a "sovereign unit" in the emerging United States of America, so these thirteen grand lodges jealously guarded their own sovereignty in the world of Freemasonry. It was from this beginning that Freemasonry developed in America, with each new state forming its own grand lodge. Eventually there were fifty one grand lodges in the United States – one for each state, and one for the District of Columbia.

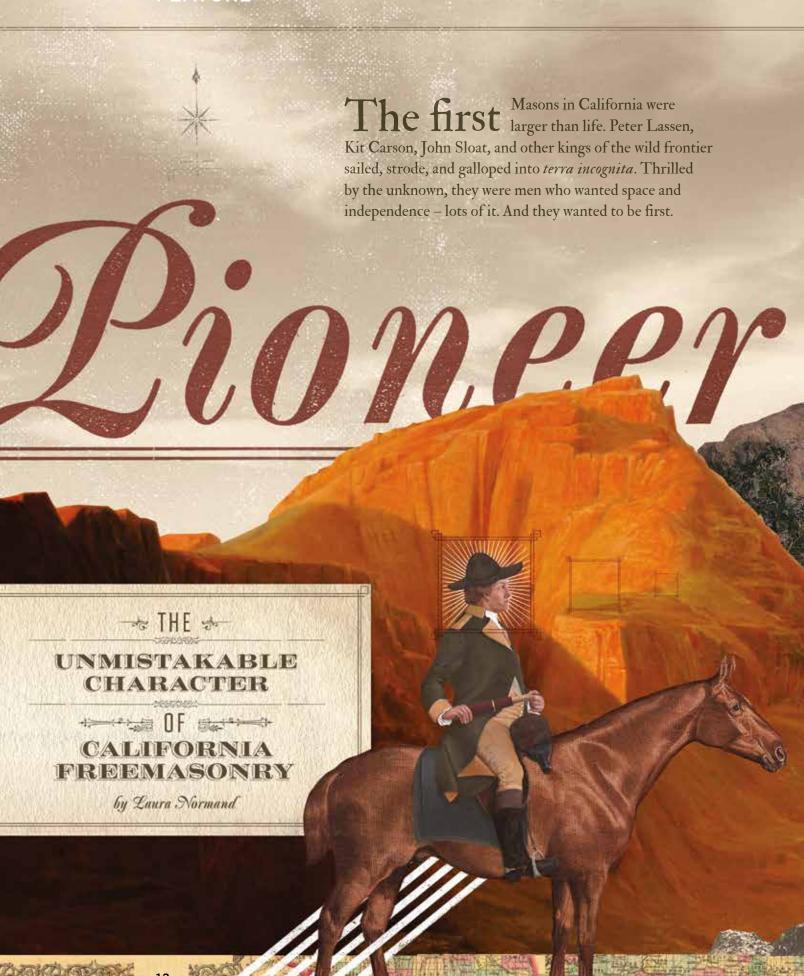
The consequences of this development were enormous, not only for American Freemasonry, but for Freemasonry in general. Before the thirteen stated grand lodges were created, it was uncertain how a new grand lodge could be created. That question was settled as far as the United States was concerned, and this had an impact on the rest of the Masonic world. A new grand lodge in the United States was formed when five regular lodges, holding charters from a variety of other state grand lodges, surrendered the charters from their original grand lodges and then bound themselves together in a new grand lodge. This principle prevented arguments as to which grand lodge should control the lodges in the new states as they were added to the Union, and permanently settled the question of the legitimacy of these new grand lodges. The problems which had plagued grand lodges in Europe about the authority of new lodges to govern themselves had been solved. All that was required was that the lodges in an emerging state agree to form a new grand lodge, and that settled that question. The grand lodges which had issued the original charters to form lodges in the new territories and states no longer had any say over the lodges which they had created.

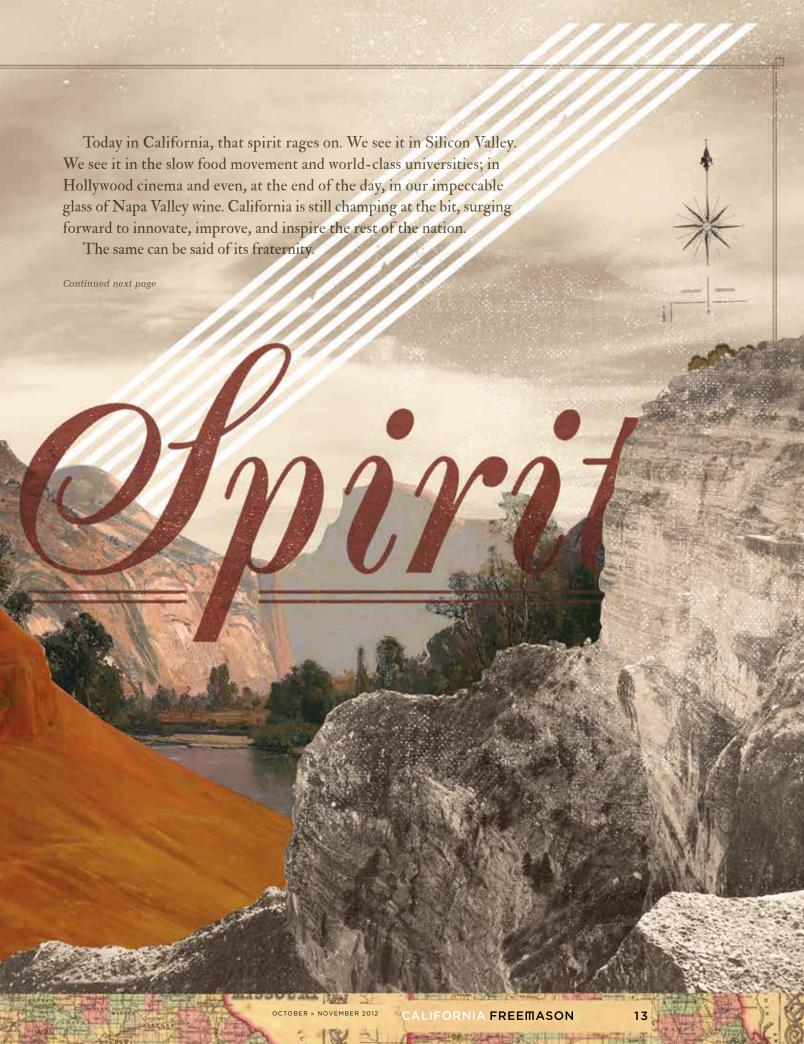
This peculiarly "American Doctrine" of how grand lodges are created is still one of the best models in the world. It leaves the power to form new grand lodges in the hands of the lodges themselves, and recognizes the rights of lodges to choose their new home. This power was exercised by five lodges in California on April 19, 1850, when they met to form the Grand Lodge of



California. Each of these lodges held a charter or dispensation from a grand lodge "back east," but there was never a question as to whether they had the right to surrender their charters to the grand lodge which had created them, and to receive a charter from the newly-formed Grand Lodge of California. In contemporary language, these lodges exercised their privileges in a democracy to become independent, and to form an independent grand lodge which would meet their unique needs in a new environment. Nothing could be more "American" than this freedom of choice, and it all should be credited to President George Washington. He believed in the uniqueness of Freemasonry as much as he believed in the uniqueness of the United States

of America. By turning down the offer to make him "general grand master" of the United States of America, he guaranteed the harmony that is a salient characteristic of American Freemasonry to this day. The Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of California is the result of this wise decision on the part of our first president. In addition to being the father of his country, Bro. George Washington is the father of American Freemasonry. ❖





# AMBITIOUS

"They sailed their flimsy little vessels out of New England ports, battled storms off Cape Horn, and months later declared their cargoes at Monterey." So begins "One Hundred Years of Freemasonry in California," Leon Whitsell's encyclopedic account of the fraternity first century. Upon reaching their destination, the Masons he describes took to battling a new kind of storm: settling the wilderness of California.

Not very long after they arrived, on a frigid January morning in 1848, a Freemason named James Marshall set out to inspect a sawmill he was building and spotted a gold nugget. The population exploded as fortune-seekers surged into California from the eastern U.S. and around the globe: from China, Germany, Chile, Mexico, Ireland, Turkey, and France. In San Francisco, the population grew from 1,000 in 1848 to more than 20,000 by 1850. Ambitious and driven, they took matters of statehood into their own hands. "The people met of their own motion in the autumn of 1849, and organized as a state," wrote philosopher and California native Josiah Royce. In astonishingly swift fashion - Eureka!, as the saying goes - California went from Mexican territory to a state in the Union in 1850, just two years after the Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo ended the Mexican-American War.

Today we still recognize those traits: ambition, enterprise, and not a little precociousness. In our best moments, they are unmistakably Californian.

As for the fraternity? Within just two years of the formation of the first California lodges, the Grand Lodge of California was founded.

# ALTRUISTIC

As with California itself, the early history of Masonry in the state centered on the gold mines. Lodges sprang up in Gold Rush camps, where they formed some of the state's earliest social and relief associations. (One of California's first five lodges surrendered its charter because of debt incurred in dispensing relief.) Masonic relief became a hallmark of the times: California historian Kevin Starr called it a "new intensity to companionship, as men took each other's measure under difficult conditions."

"[Mining families] were forced to live in hardship and danger," Starr wrote. "Masonic lodges offered fellowship and friendship in this hostile environment... That sense of community was much prized in the rough-and-tumble of early mining." Miners brought their Masonic permissions and licenses with them in the same bags as their shovels and pans.

They often had no church to attend; no amusement to escape to except saloons and brothels; no cemeteries, even, to be buried in if they died. As Brother H.R. Haywood wrote – in an essay published by the Missouri Lodge of Research in 1963 – the Masonic lodge 'became almost all things to its members, a lodge, a religious center, a social rendezvous, a league for self-protection, and a sieve with which to sift the wheat from the chaff among the American adventurers, miners, trappers, and traders who began to come in from the East in a continuing stream... a lighthouse of friendship, charity, and social life."



# DIVERSE

Masons today still regard their lodge as a "lighthouse of friendship," something that may come as a surprise to those unfamiliar with the fraternity. It's more common for non-Masons to eulogize Freemasonry, assuming it's dead or dying or, at the very least, no longer relevant. In an interview for another California Freemason article, religious history professor David Hackett reacted with skepticism – bordering on disbelief – when I mentioned that the L.A. Times had printed a major article, and a flattering one at that, on Freemasonry in California as recently as 2008. (I subsequently forwarded him the article, "Brother, You're In," as proof.)

To the surprise of Hackett and others, the fraternity is experiencing a quiet resurgence. Here in the Golden State, membership numbers are rebounding after years of decline; in 2009, the number of degrees conferred per lodge increased to the highest level since 1978. And overall, members are not simply going through the motions. Brothers are still challenged to exemplify the tolerance and non-discriminating fellowship that first made the fraternity so remarkable.

Take a snapshot of Masonry in one part of California, drive a couple hours down the Pacific Coast Highway and take another, and odds are you'll end up with two very different photos. California is one of the most diverse states in the nation, and so is its fraternity. There are French-speaking lodges and a Spanish-speaking lodge. Ararat Lodge No. 848 celebrates Armenian language and culture, and the Chinese Acacia Club honors the heritage of Chinese-American Masons. An all-Filipino degree team called Mga Manlalakbay na Gurong Mason (in Tagalog: Traveling Master Masons) visits lodges throughout the state.

In a way, diversity is part of what keeps California Masonry so relevant. In a state this varied in ethnicities, lifestyles, and ideologies, the fraternity still serves as a "sieve with which to sift the wheat from the chaff" – but it's also a glue between men with very different backgrounds.

That's how Mark Lewis felt when he became a Mason at Joseph L. Shell Daylight Lodge No. 837, in San Diego. Then 35 years old, coming from a career in the Navy, Lewis told me what impressed him the most.

"There's not one person in the lodge that will not be there for you. Everybody that comes in the lodge door," he said, excited, "they don't sit down without shaking everyone's hand first."

# PROGRESSIVE

In 2009, the current deputy grand master of the Grand Lodge of Maryland, Jerry Piepiora, attended California's Senior Wardens Retreat.

Piepiora was gathering ideas for a similar program in his own state, and also solicited input from East Coast grand lodges including Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, and Ohio. He says he paid particular attention to the structure of California's training program, parts of which he adapted and scaled down for Maryland. But, he adds, "What I most appreciated about California was your lodges' willingness to participate. Your seats were filled."

"The lodges on the East Coast are much older," he says. "There's a different mentality of tradition out here. This is the way we've

Continued next page

# "T believe that the fostering of innovation and creativity will not only be a lasting heritage from our past, but a hallmark of our future."

# JOHN L. COOPER III

done things for 220-plus years, so sometimes, to get people to try programs can be a little difficult. People are more set in their ways."

"California lodges are not as old. To some extent, you're still feeling your way," he observes. "You're still trying to figure out the best way to function as a grand lodge."

# FORWARD-LOOKING

To continue to be useful and relevant, Masonry must evolve. As Piepiora saw at the leadership retreats, California is good at this. (If Piepiora had dropped by in 2012, his opinion would've been reinforced. In the interim three years, the Wardens Retreats were restructured and expanded to include masters and a new, team-oriented curriculum.)

Take philanthropy. Historically, Masons in California tend to do more than write checks; they place themselves front and center in the community - look no further than Public Schools Month. That's still the culture. But it means that the fraternity must be willing to shift course when the landscape shifts, too. The long-term sights are on Raising A Reader (RAR), which will address one of the most pressing education shortfalls for the future of California (a recent San Francisco Chronicle article revealed that three-quarters of the state's fourth-grade students are not proficient in reading). The fraternity is bringing RAR'S nationally-acclaimed literacy program to the state's lowest performing public schools for the first time this fall. Thousands of children will get the early literacy skills they need - and which they're currently not getting – to succeed in school and well beyond. The Masons are helping to start a new legacy of literacy in California.

That's not the only partnership for education. At the university level, the fraternity is gaining international recognition for its role in advancing the academic study of Masonry. In 2008, the Grand Lodge of California partnered with the University of California, Los Angeles. The partnership has yielded undergraduate courses, volumes of new research, public seminars, and an International Conference on American & Latin American Freemasonry. In a paper published by the University of Costa Rica, Professor Guillermo de los Reyes Heredia lauds the partnership for putting research on Latin American Freemasonry on the map. He also refers to the 7th California Masonic Symposium, which explored Masonry in Mexico and Latin America, as (roughly translated) "perhaps the most important work for the study of Latin American Masonry in the U.S."

As the field of Masonic study grows, the demand will increase for proper archival of its documents and artifacts. California is ahead of this curve, too. Margaret Jacob, a world-renowned Masonic scholar, groups the Henry W. Coil Library & Museum in the same exemplary class as The Hague, which houses one of the world's most extensive Masonic collections.

# CREATIVE

Perhaps this spirit of constant improvement – this open-arm welcome of the next big idea – comes with the territory. These days, to describe California as a cradle of innovation borders on trite. Industry-changing technology gushes from Silicon Valley like water over Yosemite Falls; every few months, it seems, another sweatshirt-clad entrepreneur becomes a billionaire. Google, Facebook, and Apple – companies that transformed American life – made their names here.

Masons in California are used to innovation. Here in the Golden State, lodge secretaries cruise online to submit once-tedious reports; candidates will soon be able to study Masonic Education on their smartphones and tablets; and the extended fraternal family engages 24/7 with Grand Lodge's



award-winning social media sites. The fraternity is devoting research to the emerging field of memory care. It recently opened the Masonic Center for Youth and Families, a comprehensive model for youth psychological services unavailable anywhere else in the country. (See "Smoothing the Rough Stone," page 25.) The California Masonic Foundation recently developed a new college scholarship for students who do not fit a traditional applicant profile, but nonetheless demonstrate extraordinary potential. A list of the jurisdiction's philanthropic and leadership accomplishments could fill a book – which it essentially does in its annual report to members.

# BOLD

John L. Cooper III is California's past grand secretary of 16 years, and current deputy grand master. "As far as the future of Freemasonry in California is concerned," Cooper says, "I believe that the fostering of innovation and creativity will not only be a lasting heritage from our past, but a hallmark of our future. California Masons are not afraid to encourage the exploration of new ideas and new ways of increasing the impact of Freemasonry on our society."

Cooper traces this back to the "frontier spirit" of California Masonry's earliest founders. Back in the early days of the Gold Rush, he explains, some California charters allowed lodges to meet in a specified location *or within five miles thereof*, acknowledging the need for fluidity as camps moved from field to field in search of gold.

"It may be that this rather flexible early history of our lodges persists in our openness to new ideas," he says. "Our Grand Lodge is characterized by a spirit of freedom."

Cooper calls it a spirit of freedom. The first Masons in California called it being pioneers. ❖

# Planning for the future

Back in the days of the Gold Rush, prospectors were constantly improving their methods for mining gold. In Masonic lodges today, things are not so different. The best measure of this might be the 2010-15 strategic plan, which has lent a business-like focus to five priority areas and 21 specific, measurable objectives.

At just beyond halfway to the plan's deadline, significant progress is underway. Among the achievements so far:

- » Added new prospect and applicant information sections to freemason.org
- » Rolled out a new application
- Hosted the 2012 California Masonic Symposium in two cities, Pasadena and San Francisco
- » Redesigned all leadership retreats
- » Developed new "Member Experience" LMCP course
- » Developed new event management system
- » Launched partnership with Raising A Reader
- » Opened Masonic Center for Youth and Families
- » Developed training for adult leaders of youth orders



### **ШЕВ EXTRA**

Web Extra: Read the complete update at freemason.org

# **GOLDEN LEGACY**

# JOHN D. SLOAT: THE MASON WHO CLAIMED CALIFORNIA

by Tania Rohan

On the morning of July 7, 1896, a crowd of several thousand gathered atop the rolling hills of the Presidio of Monterey. As they looked on, Major Edwin A. Sherman, riding on horseback, led Masons of California Grand Lodge officers along their path to just east of Fort Mervine. It was there that they would lay the cornerstone for the Sloat Monument, in honor of the man who had seized California for the United States.

Men spoke at length. A band played parting songs. Guns were fired in salute. It was a grand ceremony, and deservedly so. Because had it not been for the late Rear Admiral John Drake Sloat's actions 50 years prior, the Golden State as we know it would not exist.

# From adversity to adventure

Things weren't always so glorious for Sloat. Though he was born into an influential New York family — his hometown, Sloatsburg, was named after his ancestors — he hardly had the perfect childhood. Before his birth in 1781, his father was accidentally shot and killed on the family's doorstep. Then,

two years later, his mother passed away. From that day forward, he was raised by his maternal relatives.

Inspired, perhaps, by stories of his late father, who'd fought at the Battle of Bunker Hill, Sloat developed a keen appetite for adventure. In 1800, when he was 19 years old, he joined the Navy and quickly became a midshipman to the frigate *President* in Southern Europe. That same year, he received his Masonic degrees from St. Nicholas Lodge No. 3 in New York. And in 1818, while on furlough from the Navy, he met his wife, Abby Gordon, with whom he had three children.

Over the course of his naval career, Sloat racked up one achievement after another: From salvaging an earthquake-stricken ship to edging out Britain's *Macedonian* warship to capturing pirates, he was a skilled seaman who quickly moved up the ranks. Still, none of his triumphs would shape the future of our state – and our country – more than the one he claimed while commanding the Pacific Squadron in July of 1946.

# The tough call

Mexican-American relations had grown increasingly strained in the middle part of the century. Meanwhile, American powers feared that the British were interested in seizing California and that they might capitalize on regional unrest to stage a takeover. To stop that from happening, Secretary of the Navy George Bancroft issued an order to Sloat: Should America go to war with Mexico, he was to head straight to California and claim it for the United States. And so on July 2, Sloat sailed to Monterey to keep close watch on the situation. He had no intention of carrying out Bancroft's orders just yet – he needed to be sure that war had been declared before he could comfortably take action.

In fact, war had been declared; Sloat just didn't know it. Around the same time he arrived in Monterey, a group of American settlers staged a revolt in opposition to Mexican rule. Led by Army Major John C. Fremont, they issued a declaration of independence and raised the Bear Flag (now California's state

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OCTOBER » NOVEMBER 2012 CALIFORNIA FREEMASON

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DAMES MEAFORS

# Remembering California's Hero

These are the words of Dr. Washington Ayer as he addressed Grand Master Edward M. Preston along with a crowd of Masons, military men, and other onlookers on July 7, 1897:

"We have assembled here today to commemorate one of the most important and interesting events in the annals of our country, and to honor the memory of one who was not only brave in the defense of his country, and upon the ocean amidst the perils of storms, but was also brave in his integrity and determination to perform his duty promptly and well."

flag) at Sonoma. When Sloat heard news of the colonists' uprising, he was spurred into action. He may not have had confirmation that war had erupted, but he believed Fremont might be acting under orders. So he made a tough call – and it paid off.

On July 7, 1846, he and 250 of his men marched to the customhouse, where they raised the American flag and proclaimed California annexed to the United States. Within a week, the stars and stripes had been raised in San Francisco, Sonoma, and Sutter's Fort – and the Bear Flaggers

abandoned their "republic" to join forces with the U.S. Army. Two weeks after Sloat's landing, a British frigate arrived in Monterey. But it was too late.

# A lasting legacy

Sloat's conquest might be known as the Battle of Monterey, but that's a misnomer – his actions were met with little to no resistance from the inhabitants of California, many of whom welcomed annexation. It helped that Sloat was delicate in his handling of them. Upon raising the flag at Monterey, he proclaimed:

"I declare to the inhabitants of California, that, although in arms with a powerful force, I do not come among them as an enemy to California, but, on the contrary, I come as their best friend, as henceforward, California will be a portion of the United States, and its peaceable inhabitants will enjoy the same rights and privileges as the citizens of any other portion of the nation."

Among other things, Sloat promised that existing land titles would be guaranteed, that churches and their clergy would enjoy their current rights, and that any use of provisions or supplies by the American Army would be appropriately compensated for. In short, the Californians would be treated like existing Americans.

Sloat didn't stay in California long, though. Citing poor health, he resigned just two weeks after the occupation of Monterey, transferring power to Commodore Robert F. Stockton. Twenty years later, at the age of 86, he died in Staten Island, New York and was buried with Masonic and naval honors in Greenwood Cemetery by St. Nicholas Lodge No. 3.

On that day, and in all of the commemorations that followed over the years, Sloat was celebrated for his demonstration of the Masonic virtues of bravery, integrity, import of service, and love of country. And today, when we gaze at his namesake monument in Monterey – which, at 30 feet tall, seems an appropriate stature for the magnitude of his accomplishments – we remember a brother whose actions didn't just pave the way for California Masonry, but ensured our great state could become what it is today. �

# CALIFORNIA MASONRY IN YOUR WORDS

# CALIFORNIA MASONRY FROM OUR MEMBERS' PERSPECTIVES

We asked more than 11,500 fans on the Masons of California Facebook page to describe California Masonry in one sentence. Here's a sample of what you said:

### **Raul Nadres**

The greatest of all is charity.

### **Bill McBroome**

How good and pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity.



# **Tim Towey**

Alive and strong: If you have the eyes to see and the ears to hear, you will.

### Maria Christina Mendes Caldeira

Respect, values, and justice for everybody.

### Frankie Wheelhouse

Very proactive!

## Joe Gonzalez

Open to the cultivation of the human spirit with an allowance for freedom of expression, thought, and an embrace of diversity; toleration and liberality are not just empty platitudes, but an affirmation of Fraternity, Equality, and Liberty!

I can describe Freemasonry in Los Angeles as the perfect balance of traditional and futuristic-esoteric, as well as cutting-edge, thanks to a diverse and thriving membership made up of creative and charitable brethren from all walks of life, and all stages of adulthood, who are ambitious and adventurous travelers.

I would describe it as the color spectrum, in which its members come from different backgrounds, and have a wide array of ideas about how to accomplish the same,

and ultimately all combined, result in a bright light.

I'm still an EA, but thus far I see it as warm and welcoming.

### Alex Towev

Adan Bautista

Deon R. Williams

Chris Engelman

We have esoteric truths that are taught by our degrees that are both veiled in allegory and illustrated by symbols.

## **Mark Laybourn**

Vibrant, vital, morphi; It's at its most exciting and pivotal point in its history.

Uganda Knapps

One big family.

Lee Romo Very involved.

# LAWMEN AND BROTHERS

# THE DOUBLE BROTHERHOOD OF THE CALIFORNIA MASONIC POSSE

by Heather Boerner

At John D'Agostini's recent degree conferral at Drytown Lodge No. 174 in Amadour County, D'Agostini watched as his father, also a member of the lodge, gave the Mother Lode Lecture. Members of the degree team took their stations. The mood was appropriately somber, the energy sublime, and the profane world blocked out.

But the small lodge room in California's gold country was packed to bursting. And the team of men who conducted the ritual wore black vests embroidered with five-pointed stars. The five points represented the five points of fellowship in Masonry. The square and the compass occupied a primary place in the center of the star. From a distance, one could be forgiven for mistaking the star for a sheriff's badge. And that's exactly as it should be.

The focus was on Masonry, and D'Agostini's raising to Master Mason. But the degree work was flavored by something else close to D'Agostini's heart: his experience as sheriff in El Dorado County. In addition to being Master Masons, members of the degree team were all lawmen.

"We share so many values," says D'Agostini. "The oath of office we take in law enforcement and the obligations in the fraternity, although distinct, are very much alike. We're both held to a higher standard 24/7, and we're both willing to give of ourselves."

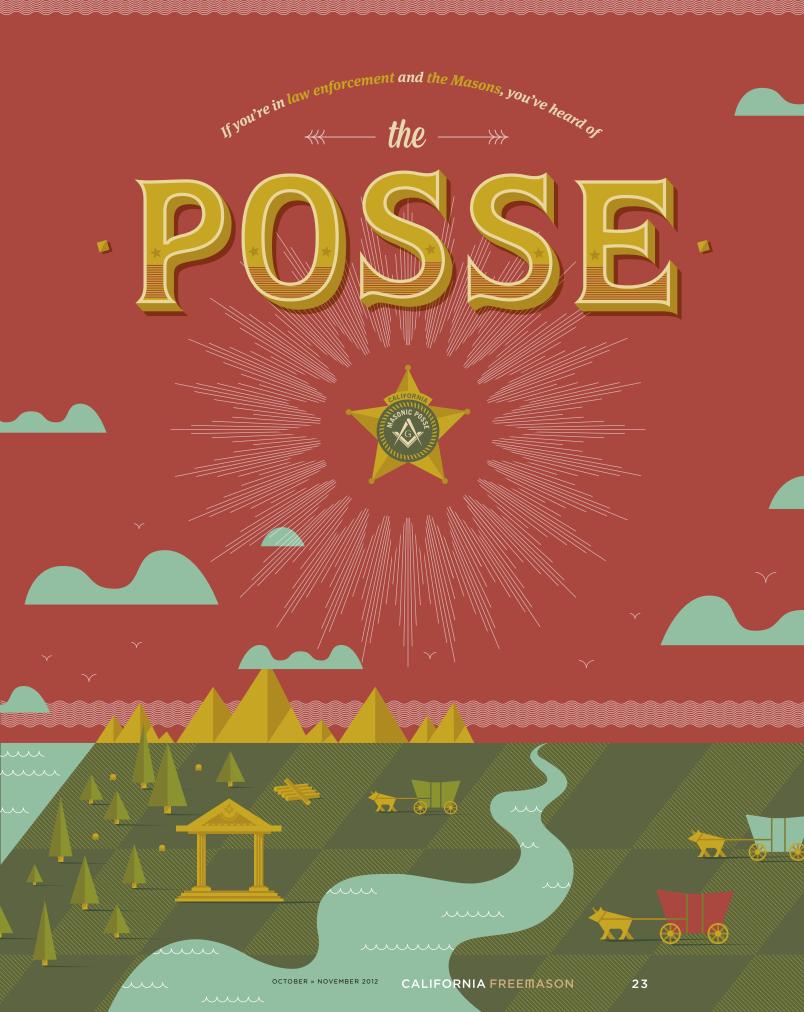
Once his degree was conferred, D'Agostini became what Bob Winter, master of East Belt-Tuolumne Lodge No. 8, calls a "double brother" – a Master Mason and a peace officer. All members of the California Masonic Posse, the degree team that wears those five-pointed stars, are double brothers. The posse, founded around 1980 by Winter and a number of fellow Masons in Santa Clara County, is comprised of sheriffs like D'Agostini and Winter – a former Santa Clara County sheriff – as well as police officers, coast guard members, correctional officers, federal agents, deputy district attorneys, counter intelligence agents, and military police, among others.

The degree team harkens back to affinity degree teams belonging to fire fighters, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, and the Scottish Kilties. But the Posse is uniquely Californian, from their outdoor ceremonies to their cowboy hats, cowboy boots, and star-emblazoned vests.

The Posse was founded out of the Santa Clara County Square and Compass Club degree team. The team had been around for years, but when the former head retired in 1980, Winter took over. It didn't take long for both him and other members to realize that the vast majority of their members were peace officers. Together, the group decided to change focus: They would confer degrees on anyone who worked as a peace officer. And while they were willing to act as senior warden or junior deacon for any lodge in need, they would focus their work on conferring the third degree. The posse has about 60 members as far north as El Dorado County and as far south as King City in Monterey County; they also have members in southern California, as well as affiliate members in other parts of the country.

The point of the posse, says B.J. McCuiston, a Master Mason at Keith Lodge No. 187 in Gilroy and undersheriff of the posse, is to raise the esteem of both law enforcement and Masonry. "It bolsters the image of Masonry, at least in the law

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# IN CALIFORNIA

enforcement community," he says. "And it improves the image of law enforcement, which is pretty bad in some areas."

But mostly, it's designed to enhance the experience of California Masons who are also in law enforcement.

"I figure anything we do to make the experience of a candidate memorable is going to get him into lodge and keep him active," says McCuiston. "To have people of like mind who feel part of a group — that can only serve to enhance the experience and make them want to be part of it."

It's also a call to action: McCuiston says after every degree conferral, he tells new Posse members, "Now it's up to you to choose a part to play, to take an active role in degree work."

And the Posse takes its degree work seriously. Though Winter says brothers outside the Posse have asked if it is more a social group than a degree team, he's very clear on the point.

"We are extremely proficient," says Winter. "Many of us have been inspectors; we have a past grand master as a member; we have Grand Lodge committee members in our group. We don't confer a degree unless I am convinced that everyone is proficient in his particular station."

But that doesn't mean that the Posse doesn't also have fun at degrees. While McCuiston uses the occasion of a conferral to encourage active participation by brothers, Winter has been known to quip, "You're now a double brother. You can go anywhere in the country and not only seek out a lodge to attend but also find the best donut shop in town."

For his part, D'Agostini says it's true that the Posse is known far and wide. "If you're in law enforcement and the Masons, you've heard of the Posse," he says.

D'Agostini comes from a family of Masons – both his father and grandfather have been masters of Drytown Lodge – but is the first in his family to serve in law enforcement. And having that double connection is important.

"What it means to me is not only having the strength of the Masonic fraternity behind me, and the history that goes along with that, but also being part of a group that has similar beliefs and training and paths in regard to the law enforcement profession," he says. "They know all I've had to deal with in the day-to-day career. It solidifies the bond even more."  $\diamond$ 



# SMOOTHING THE ROUGH STONE

# AN INNOVATIVE MASONIC APPROACH FOR REACHING CHILDREN IN NEED

by Heather Boerner

The brotherhood of Freemasonry takes rough-hewn stone and smoothes it, finds its place, and builds a strong man as part of a strong fraternity. But what happens when the foundation of a child's life is crumbling, when his emotional underpinnings are so rough as to cut – both the child and those who come into contact with him?

The answer Dr. Terrence Owens, clinical director of the Masonic Center for Youth and Families (MCYAF), came to is both novel in clinical practice and distinctly Masonic: You take those rough spots and handle them gently. You work steadily to smooth the roughness – both in that child and in his social structure – and you help the child become a strong, integrated part of a larger society. And in so doing, you create a model of care that's unique both in Masonry and in child and adolescent therapy. In fact, MCYAF is so noteworthy that the Journal of Infant, Child, and Adolescent Psychotherapy is dedicating an entire issue to MCYAF's model of care, with a paper by Owens as its centerpiece.

"We're taking a problem we considered complex and treating it in a complex way," says Owens. "We decided we'd take our time; that we'd look carefully at all aspects of the child's life, and include the family."

To really appreciate the uniqueness of MCYAF's approach, you have to understand where the field and Owens are coming from. For years, Owens was director of clinical services at the McAuley Institute at St. Mary's Medical Center in San Francisco. Over the last 15 years, he watched as patient stays dropped



THE PROFESSIONAL STAFF AT MCYAF BELIEVE IT IS IMPORTANT TO CAREFULLY CONSIDER ALL ASPECTS OF A CHILD'S LIFE WHEN DETERMINING TREATMENT.

Continued next page

# MASONIC ASSISTANCE

# Extending the Hand of Service

### BRINGING OUTREACH TO THE LODGE

Not that long ago, by the time calls came in to Quynh Tran of Masonic Outreach Services (MOS), members' financial, social, or medical problems would be far advanced. Worse, Tran often found herself wondering if there were members who didn't get help at all.

"As we began to partner more with local lodges, we became increasingly aware of the lack of information and misinformation about Masonic Outreach Services," says Tran. "So we set out to have a stronger relationship with lodges."

To correct any misunderstandings and to make Masonic services more accessible, MOS unveiled a new lodge outreach program in August. This initiative, which started with Masonic District IX in San Diego, brings lodge-chosen training coordinators and trainees to MOS' Covina office to learn about connecting brothers with Masonic Assistance. Trainees learn what to look for, what questions to ask, and the procedures associated with accessing Masonic member and family services. They also receive training materials and tools to bring back to their lodges, strengthening the Masonic safety net.

The initiative will help link lodges to all the services MOS has to offer: the Masonic Homes of California, Masonic Senior Outreach and Family Outreach Services, and the Masonic Center for Youth and Family – as well as the California Masonic Foundation, and more.

"We expect to be inundated," Tran says, mentioning that there are many young Masons who are "hungry to help."

"We're hoping our partnerships will increase the quality of fraternal life through active and engaged membership in the lodges, and we are expecting that this type of relationship will reinvigorate the Masonic obligation to provide relief," she says. "This is the wave of the future."

from an average of two weeks to two to three days, with little coverage to treat the family system. The ragged foundation of the family was never addressed and, more and more, the trend was to diagnose a child with bipolar disorder or attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder – and then dispense medication. There was no understanding of the child as a whole.

MCYAF is an antidote to single-focused care. "We start with understanding – not labeling," explains Steffani Kizziar, executive director of MCYAF. "We talk with parents and guardians and those who interact closely with the young person in a variety of settings – teachers, coaches, babysitters, and relatives. We want to understand where and how the young person flourishes and where and how they struggle."

The approach goes like this: A family comes to MCYAF with a child or teenager who has exhibited behavior that demonstrates a need for care. Over the next two weeks, Center staff – including experienced psychoanalysts, psychologists, psychiatrists,



marriage and family therapists, and social workers – interview the child and anyone close to him who might offer insight into the multi-faceted issues facing him and his family. At the same time, assessment psychologists conduct extensive cognitive, personality, and neurocognitive testing to understand the details about the child's functioning and capacities. At the end, staff have a 360 degree view of the family's dynamic and issues – issues that have often dogged a family for generations.

And then, like the brotherhood itself, the Center wraps the family in a cloak of services. Usually the child will be prescribed psychotherapy, with the option of developing into psychoanalysis if necessary, but if the parents are in conflict, they will be offered couples' counseling, as well. If one parent needs treatment, that parent may be offered individual therapy. Whole families may be offered family therapy, in addition to individual and couples therapy. There are social workers to help parents and family members receive additional services to ease stress and assist in healing.

All MCYAF services are offered in an outpatient setting and by experienced clinicians, setting them apart from most programs, which use interns to staff their services. And all services are offered on a sliding scale that allows anyone to access care.

In addition to providing treatment, MCYAF is partnering with the Yale Child Study Center and the Anna Freud Centre in London to perform detailed outcome studies, measuring the effectiveness of the program and its results. Through the studies, staff seek to show that MCYAF's new diagnostic tools and approach perform better than traditional models. "We recognize an obligation to use our experience to show what's possible when you invest wisely in youth and families," Kizziar says.

For one child who recently completed treatment, the preliminary results are startling. When the child entered, she'd had periodic suicidal thoughts and was overwhelmingly anxious. The center's staff diagnosed a learning disability. Today, after completing family and individual therapy, her self-esteem has been raised and she thinks clearly. Her anxiety is drastically reduced. Her suicidal thoughts have disappeared.



"Masons should be so proud of what they've done," says Owens. "They've really taken a stand against some negative trends. Now we're able to offer this care without cost being the first consideration. Even if people can't afford much of anything, they can get the best care possible." \[ \lambda \]

# Connecting with Masonic Assistance



# MASONIC SENIOR OUTREACH

Masonic Senior Outreach, a program of the Masonic Homes of California, provides the senior members of our fraternal family access to the services and resources they need to stay healthy and safe in their homes or in retirement facilities in their home communities.

These services include:

- \* Information and referrals to community-based senior providers throughout California
- \* Ongoing care management at no cost
- \* Financial support

Masonic Senior Outreach also provides interim financial and care support to those who are on the waiting list for the Masonic Homes of California. Contact us at 888/466-3642 or intake@mhcuc.org.

# MASONIC FAMILY OUTREACH

Masonic Family Outreach support services are available to California Masons and their families who need help dealing with today's complex issues, such as the impact of divorce, the stresses of a special needs child, job loss, and other significant life challenges.

Our case management services are broad, flexible, and able to serve families in their own communities throughout the state. If you are in need of support or know of a family in distress, contact us at 888/466-3642 or **intake@mhcuc.org**.

# MASONIC CENTER FOR YOUTH AND FAMILIES

The Masonic Center for Youth and Families provides integrated psychological services to youth ages 4 to 17 struggling with behavioral, academic, emotional, or social difficulties. To learn more about MCYAF, visit mcyaf.org or call 877/488-6293.

### ACACIA CREEK

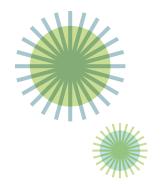
To learn more about Acacia Creek, our new senior living community in Union City, visit acaciacreek.org or call 877/902-7555.

### STAY INFORMED

You may request a presentation be made at a lodge meeting about the Masonic Homes and Outreach programs by contacting Masonic Assistance at 888/466-3642 or intake@mhcuc.org.

# **VISIT THE HOMES**

Arrange a private or group tour to get a firsthand look at residential services on our two campuses. Be sure to call ahead (even if on the same day) so we can announce your arrival at the front security gate and make proper tour arrangements. Contact the Home at Union City at 510/471-3434 and the Home at Covina at 626/251-2232.



# MASONIC ASSISTANCE FRATERNAL CARE BASED ON MASONIC VALUES

We support and serve the whole family

- Masonic Homes of California
- Masonic Family Outreach
- Masonic Senior Outreach
- Masonic Center for Youth and Families

Call 888/466-3642 for information and support



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California leadership retreats offer valuable skills to help build strong teams. Strengthen your leadership skills while understanding and maximizing the impact you can have for your lodge's future.

# **SECRETARIES & TREASURERS**

# NORTHERN RETREAT

February 8–10, San Ramon

# SOUTHERN RETREAT

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January 25–27, Irvine

# MASTERS AND WARDENS

### NORTHERN RETREATS

Northeastern Retreat: April 26–28, Sacramento Northwestern Retreat: March 1–3, Monterey

# SOUTHERN RETREATS

Southeastern Retreat: March 15–17, Ontario Southwestern Retreat: April 5–7, Irvine



# CENTURIES OF FREEMASONS

