

CALIFORNIA

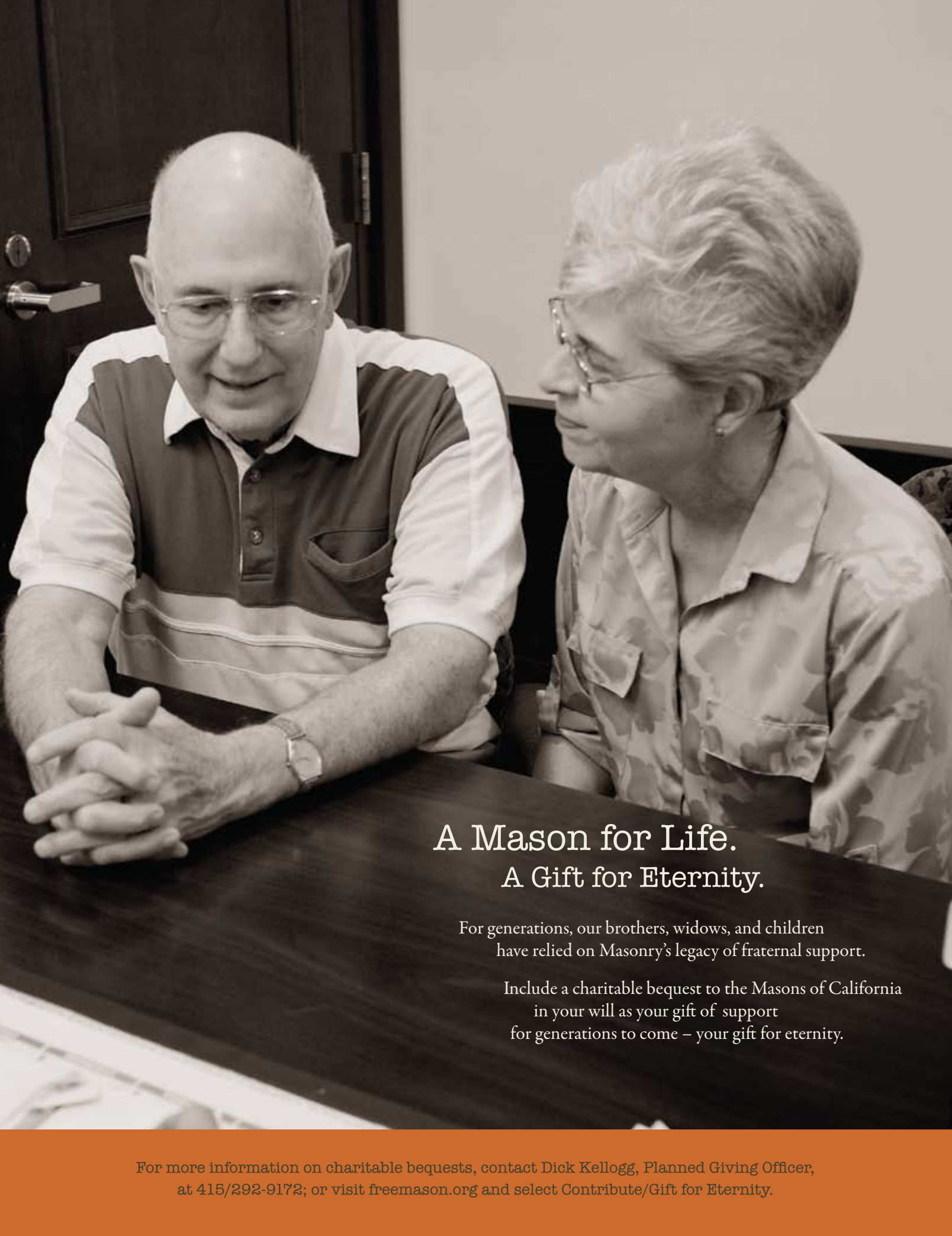
FREE MASON

Apr / May 2009

Inspiring Actions

A year of community service
reinvigorates a lodge

freemason.org



A Mason for Life. A Gift for Eternity.

For generations, our brothers, widows, and children
have relied on Masonry's legacy of fraternal support.

Include a charitable bequest to the Masons of California
in your will as your gift of support
for generations to come – your gift for eternity.

For more information on charitable bequests, contact Dick Kellogg, Planned Giving Officer,
at 415/292-9172; or visit freemason.org and select Contribute/Gift for Eternity.

PUBLICATION BOARD

Larry L. Adamson, Grand Master
Allan L. Casalou, Grand Secretary and
Editor-in-Chief

EDITORIAL STAFF

Terry Mendez, Managing Editor
Angel Alvarez-Mapp, Associate Editor
Laura Normand, Senior Editor
Tom Phillips, Art Editor

PHOTOGRAPHY

Resolusean Photography
Kris Davidson Photography

DESIGN

Phillips Creative

OFFICERS OF THE GRAND LODGE

GRAND MASTER

Larry L. Adamson, Sunset No. 369

DEPUTY GRAND MASTER

Kenneth G. Nagel, Liberty No. 299

SENIOR GRAND WARDEN

William J. Bray III, North Hollywood No. 542

JUNIOR GRAND WARDEN

Frank Loui, California No. 1

GRAND TREASURER

Glenn D. Woody, Huntington Beach No. 380

GRAND SECRETARY

Allan L. Casalou, Acalanes Fellowship No. 480

GRAND LECTURER

Paul D. Hennig, Three Great Lights No. 651

freemason.org

CALIFORNIA FREEMASON

(USPS 083-940) is published bimonthly by the Publishing Board and is the only official publication of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of California, 1111 California St., San Francisco, CA 94108-2284.

Publication Office – Publication offices at the Grand Lodge Offices, 1111 California Street, San Francisco, CA 94108-2284. Periodicals Postage Paid at San Francisco, CA and at additional mailing offices.

Postmaster – Send address changes to California Freemason, 1111 California Street, San Francisco, CA 94108-2284.

Publication Dates – Publication dates are the first day of October, December, February, April, June, and August.

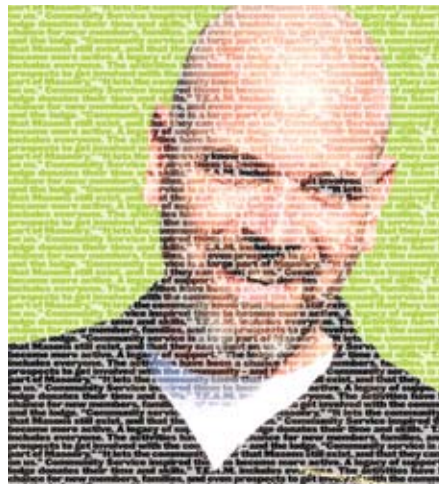
Subscriptions – CALIFORNIA FREEMASON is mailed to every member of this Masonic jurisdiction without additional charge. Others are invited to subscribe for \$2.00 a year or \$2.75 outside of the United States.

Permission to reprint – Permission to reprint original articles in CALIFORNIA FREEMASON is granted to all recognized Masonic publications with credit to the author and this publication.

Phone: 800/831-8170 or
415/776-7000;
fax: 415/776-7170;
e-mail: editor@freemason.org

Contents

Apr/May
2009



12 Feature

Inspiring Actions

In 2008 the brothers of Friendship Lodge challenged themselves to complete 12 community service projects in as many months. Far more than just an exercise in Masonic values, the year of service sparked new levels of member participation, changed the lives of families in the San Jose community, and put many brothers back in touch with why they became Masons in the first place.



page 5



page 8

5

Lodge Spotlight From rock and roll exhibits to Monday night football, three California lodges tap into their unique strengths and give back in the ways their communities need most.

8

In California In response to the state's nursing shortage, the California Masonic Foundation has created a scholarship program to support California nurse leaders.

10

Masonic Education Community service is vital for the survival of a lodge. Using the symbol of the beehive, John Cooper explains why.

16

History During the San Francisco earthquake and fire of 1906 and World War I a decade later, California Masons stepped forward to help their fellow man – regardless of Masonic affiliation.

19

Masonic Homes Community service remains a key value for Masonic Homes residents, and many continue a rigorous schedule of volunteerism on their campus and in the surrounding communities.



page 10



page 19

William J. Bray III
Senior Grand Warden



PLAYING TO YOUR STRENGTHS



ONE of Masonry's most important tenets is to give back to our communities. Along with supporting education and investing in children, community service is an important part of how we strive to better ourselves and our world.

First and foremost, we want to help our fellow man. But community service has other benefits, too. As we look inside ourselves and ask how we can give back, we discover our strengths, set an example for our children and neighbors, and fulfill our Masonic ideals. We're also making our lodges a familiar face in the community.

Starting a community service program can be a daunting task. It requires determination, creativity, and leadership to rally a lodge around a project and carry it through to success. Our jurisdiction is made up of lodges of all different sizes and resources. How can we give back to the community in some way that's recognizable?

I remember first hearing about the bike give-away program started by San Benito Lodge No. 211, which is located in a small rural community. At first glance, the lodge may seem limited in what it can really do for its community. Yet, years later, the bike give-away program is running like clockwork. San Benito Lodge keeps the money in the community by partnering with a local shop to purchase the bikes. They've arranged for bike safety

classes with local instructors. The local chapter of Eastern Star is a partner for fundraising. The result is that San Benito Lodge has put a face to Masonry in the community. The families in the public school system now know lodge brothers due to their visible support of students who achieve perfect attendance each year.

This is a great example, and not just for lodges in rural communities or lodges that might want to create a bike give-away program. It's an example of playing to your strengths. Whether you're a rural lodge with a small membership and few resources, or a large urban lodge with a robust budget, there are opportunities to give back in visible ways. As you read through this issue, think about the strengths of the featured lodges, and how they ran with those strengths. Think about your lodge's unique strengths. Think about things that you can provide – whether it's bikes or, if you have a larger membership, the manpower to step in and relieve a soup kitchen crew for a day. Think about ways to help your neighbors that go beyond just writing a check. Financial support is important, but is there an extra step you can take to connect with neighbors? It's not about recognition – Masons are always content to do good without needing a pat on the back. But it is about building relationships, which is the heart of any good community. ✨

Through regular visits and special events, Moreno Valley Lodge brothers ensure that veterans at the local VA hospital know they haven't been forgotten.

Good Neighbors

by Richard Berman

How three California lodges make their communities better places

WHAT do a rock music hall of fame, Meals On Wheels, and a weekly hot dog roast at a Veterans Affairs hospital have in common? All are actively supported by California Masonic lodges, each of which has looked to its own resources and abilities to come up with meaningful community service projects. The efforts to be a good neighbor take many forms – from time to money to in-kind contributions – but all embody the core of Masonic values.



In January, 27 Grand Lodge staff, family, and friends helped remove a mountain of unused materials from a San Francisco middle school.

GRAND LODGE STAFF ALSO COMMITTED TO COMMUNITY SERVICE

The Masonic value of service to the community is just as important to employees at Grand Lodge in San Francisco and the Masonic Homes as it is to our lodges.

A staff-led Community Service Committee was formed in June 2008 to extend Masonry's commitment to community with volunteer projects executed by Grand Lodge staff, friends, and families at all three office locations.

Public school support was chosen as the initial focus of service. Partnering with San Francisco School Volunteers, Grand Lodge employees have completed weekend restoration projects at three San Francisco schools. At Everett Middle School, the last volunteer event prior to publication, 27 staff, family, and friends donated their time.

The Committee also organized a staff-wide book drive for the resident and children libraries at the Masonic Home at Covina and is planning a project near Union City. With regular volunteer events, the Committee aims to create team-building opportunities for Grand Lodge staff while promoting Masonry's commitment to community service.

Riviera No. 780

Riviera Lodge No. 780 in Pacific Palisades describes itself as a "small but mighty lodge with a big heart."

It backs up this claim with an astonishingly generous charitable giving program, benefiting just about every community cause in need of assistance.

"Supporting local causes is a central pillar of Masonry," says Secretary Bill Branch. "Our lodge is in a good financial position – our endowment is between \$3 million and \$4 million - and we are on track to donate about \$100,000 to non-Masonic causes this year."

One of their top causes is support of local students. The lodge's chaplain and Masonic Education chair, George Black, outlines a scholarship program for elementary through high school students.

"We give six scholarships to Palisades Charter High School students," Black says. "Several are reserved for relatives of Masons, and others are open to anyone. We also give several stipends to elementary and junior high students."

The lodge has a number of other beneficiaries, and it manages to help them all. In recent years, that's included a local women's shelter, the public library, and Meals On Wheels.

"We give to every organization that asks for our help," says Branch. "Right now we are supporting a group that provides free rides to senior citizens. We've also donated several thousand dollars worth of books on Masonry to the public library," he adds, "which

ties into our mission of furthering the message and visibility of Freemasonry in the community."

Marin No. 191

When most people think of our fraternity, they don't make a connection to rock music. Starting later this year, however, the two will be synonymous in San Rafael. Marin Lodge No. 191 is donating a 1,900-square-foot commercial space in its downtown historic building to the Marin History Museum for a gallery that celebrates the history of rock and roll in the Bay Area. Marin Rocks will honor luminaries such as the Doobie Brothers, Sammy Hagar, Jefferson Airplane, Journey, and the Grateful Dead.

"It's sort of ironic that a Masonic lodge is helping to celebrate music that back in the 1960s represented a break with tradition and the 'old guard,'" says Junior Deacon Stephen Williams. "It's unusual, but it's also a great way to let people learn more about who we are and what we do."

Junior Warden Patrick Banta read about plans for a Marin Rocks gallery last year, and the organizers' difficulty finding a location. Marin Lodge offered theirs. And while the museum is leasing the space from the Hall Association, the lodge has made a pledge to the museum for an annual gift to cover the lease payments.

"Our building has several storefronts on the main street of San Rafael," Banta says. "We met with the hall of fame [organizers] and offered them one of the spaces for free. We're also talking with them about using our



Service dogs certified to work with hospital residents accompany Moreno Valley Lodge brothers on their visits and bring extra cheer to veterans.

auditorium for concerts. It's good for the community, and it's also good for the fraternity."

While the details are still being worked out (the museum's opening date is scheduled for September 2009), Banta says that several major rock stars have already come by to check out the building.

"In January, James Hetfield from Metallica came to our office and started asking questions about some of the [Masonic] symbols on the walls," Banta recalls. "He then rolled up his sleeve to show me one of his tattoos. It was the all-seeing eye."

Moreno Valley No. 804

Eighty miles east of Pacific Palisades is the community of Moreno Valley, in the heart of Southern California's Inland Empire. Moreno Valley Lodge No. 804 may not have the financial resources of Riviera Lodge, but that hasn't stopped its members from

"The program is really all about giving back to the community, and I'm proud that the lodge has been so supportive."

touching lives in the community.

"We devote a lot of our time to local causes and helping people here," says Brother Duane Terkildsen. In fact, an unexpected benefit of the lodge's community outreach is Terkildsen himself.

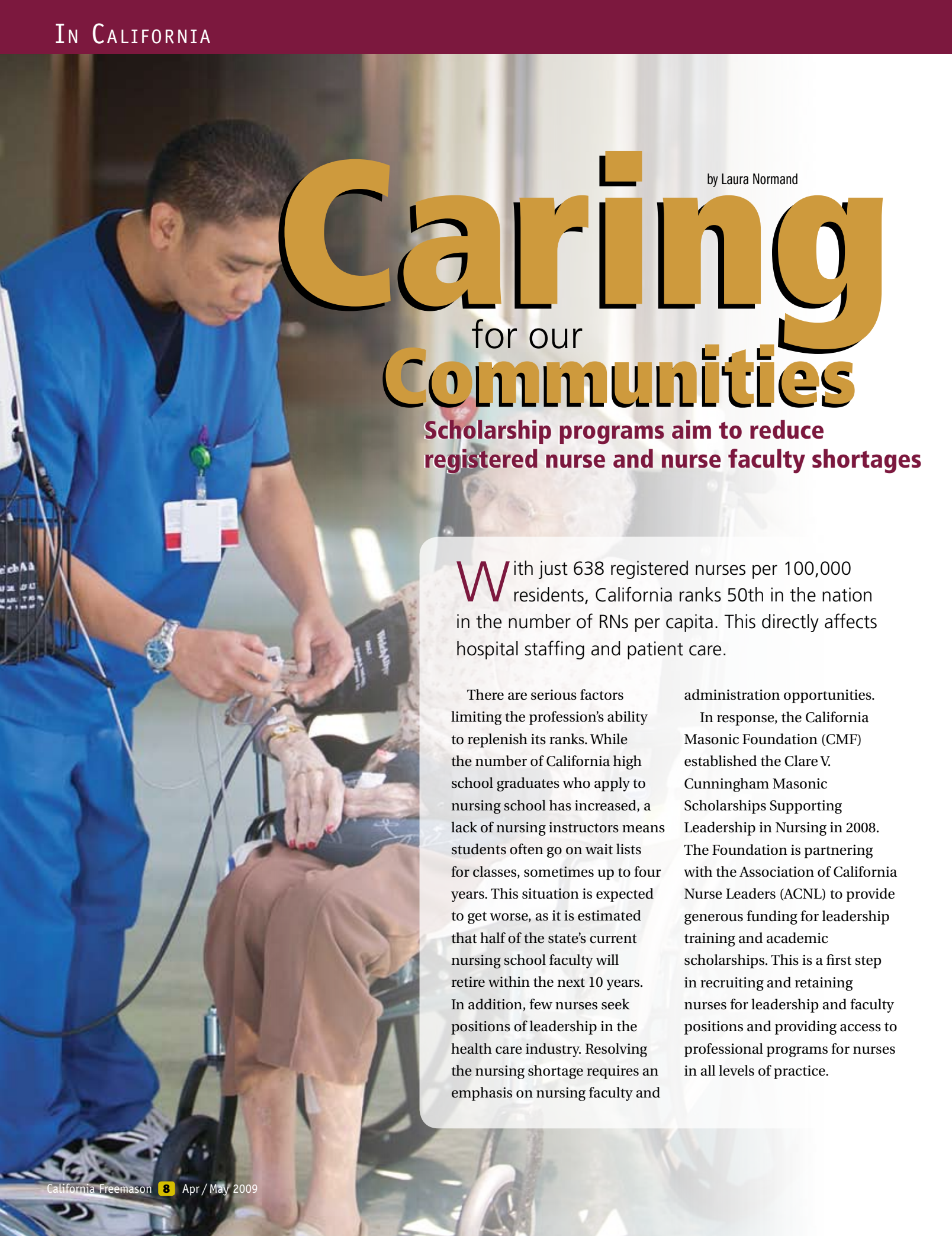
"I actually became a Mason because of the men I met when I was doing volunteer work at the local VA hospital, where my wife is a nurse," Terkildsen says. "Seeing them do so many wonderful things for the veterans in our area was really an inspiration."

In 2007 Terkildsen, an Army veteran and aerospace engineer, worked with the lodge to create a formal veterans hospital visitation program at the Loma Linda facility.

"We host a weekly Monday Night Football party during the fall, which is a great way to bond with veterans who are too often forgotten," Terkildsen says. In addition to regular visits with three service dogs, the members also provide social programs to keep hospital residents connected to the community throughout the year: the annual Super Bowl party (for eight years running) and holiday dinners and carol-singing.

"The program is really all about giving back to the community, and I'm proud that the lodge has been so supportive," Terkildsen concludes.

Whether it's a matter of donating time, space, or money, Moreno Valley No. 804, Marin No. 191, and Riviera No. 780 provide meaningful community service in their own ways. ♦



by Laura Normand

Caring for our Communities

Scholarship programs aim to reduce registered nurse and nurse faculty shortages

With just 638 registered nurses per 100,000 residents, California ranks 50th in the nation in the number of RNs per capita. This directly affects hospital staffing and patient care.

There are serious factors limiting the profession's ability to replenish its ranks. While the number of California high school graduates who apply to nursing school has increased, a lack of nursing instructors means students often go on wait lists for classes, sometimes up to four years. This situation is expected to get worse, as it is estimated that half of the state's current nursing school faculty will retire within the next 10 years. In addition, few nurses seek positions of leadership in the health care industry. Resolving the nursing shortage requires an emphasis on nursing faculty and

administration opportunities.

In response, the California Masonic Foundation (CMF) established the Clare V. Cunningham Masonic Scholarships Supporting Leadership in Nursing in 2008. The Foundation is partnering with the Association of California Nurse Leaders (ACNL) to provide generous funding for leadership training and academic scholarships. This is a first step in recruiting and retaining nurses for leadership and faculty positions and providing access to professional programs for nurses in all levels of practice.

ACNL has a 30-year history of developing nurse leaders, supporting lifelong learning opportunities, and acting as a resource and a voice for California nursing leaders. With more than 1,100 members, ACNL is the largest statewide nursing leadership organization in the United States, and advocates tirelessly to advance professional nursing.

The CMF/ACNL partnership recently launched two annual scholarship programs that will aid California nurse education:

- The California Masonic/ACNL Nursing Leadership Program will award five \$2,000 scholarships annually to California nurses attending an approved leadership training course. These awards will significantly or completely defray the cost of most national and local programs.
- The Cunningham Masonic Leadership Scholarship will award one \$10,000 scholarship annually to a high-achieving California nurse leader pursuing an advanced degree in nursing, preferably a doctoral degree in education or administration.

These scholarships are the first step in a larger plan to increase the number of California nurse leaders. In the coming months, CMF will unveil two more programs, including support of nursing cohort programs at state universities.

Foundation awarded for significant contribution

CMF was presented with the Friend of Nursing Award by ACNL – the organization's only award presented to an individual or organization outside the nursing profession.

The Friend of Nursing Award, which was created in 1990, is presented annually by ACNL to one individual and one organization making significant contributions

The importance of the Foundation's nursing scholarship programs

On the hospital side, Pat McFarland, CEO of ACNL, points out that many nurses in leadership roles have never had formal management training; rather, they were good clinicians promoted into the position.

"Many nurse advisors come from bedside care nursing," McFarland explains. "Leadership training helps

"We're very excited about this partnership, because the mission of the Masons is very much about leadership and community connection."

to or demonstrating significant support of the nursing profession. Last year's individual recipient was Betty Irene Moore, co-founder of the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, who was a key figure in establishing a school of nursing at the University of California, Davis.

"This award is a huge honor," says John Lowe, president of the CMF Board. "It recognizes the Foundation's longtime commitment to leadership and education and our expanding role in social entrepreneurship. We're proud to help lay the groundwork for advancing nurse leadership in California."

them develop management skills, which is essential to elevate the standard of practice and lead the organization through change."

McFarland is confident that the scholarship programs will position nurses to make a difference in the profession – and says that the timing couldn't be better. "In this economy, a lot of our health care organizations are struggling," she says. "One of the first things cut is dollars for education."

"We're very excited about this partnership, because the mission of the Masons is very much about leadership and community connection," McFarland says. "In the field of nursing, that's what these programs are going to help." ❖

The Beehive

by John L. Cooper III, Past Grand Secretary

and Community Service



“The bee hive is an emblem of industry, and recommends the practice of that virtue to all created beings, from the highest seraph in heaven to the lowest reptile of the dust. It teaches us that as we came into the world rational and intelligent beings, so we should ever be industrious ones; never sitting down contented while our fellow-creatures around us are in want....”

Masons in California rarely hear about the symbol of the beehive. This excerpt from the third degree lecture is optional, and has been since the 1920s. Past Grand Master Frederick L. Sorsabal made the beehive an important emblem during his term of office, and thus called it into focus. This often neglected and unknown symbol is

We can never “sit down contented,” as the ritual puts it, when there is work to do in the community.

very much worth our attention.

The ritual of Freemasonry offers thoughts on our symbols, but these thoughts are not intended to be comprehensive. Nor is the explanation of a symbol in the ritual meant to be exhaustive. It is intended to point us to further study of the symbol – a study that can take a lifetime of contemplation and devotion. So it is with the beehive. The insight offered in the ritual for the beehive is only one aspect of this symbol – and perhaps not even the most important one.

There is another interpretation of the beehive that should be called to our attention besides that of an industrious worker. That has to do with the communal nature of the work of the hive, and especially the work in the larger community in which it is located. If we were

to place a beehive within a closed room, with no outlet to the world at large, the bees would die. Even if the room was very large, and the bees were allowed to exit and enter the hive freely, the hive would die. To survive, the beehive must be able to work in the world at large.

Bees obtain sugars from flowers, which they bring back to the hive to transform into the honey which feeds them. In doing so, they move pollen from one flower to another, allowing the flowers to reproduce and live. This beneficial and symbiotic

relationship is well-known. Without it certain flowers would die; without it the hive would die. It is not an either/or choice – it is a question of both.

Not all bees go forth from the hive to do this work. The queen remains behind because she has other important duties to perform. But as a whole, the hive must work in the outside world in order to live.

In certain times and in certain places, Masons have missed this important lesson. They have concentrated on the work done inside the lodge, with little thought of the community in which they live. The lodge becomes their sole interest as individuals, and the lodge fails to connect to the community. In time, that lodge will die, much as the beehive will die if the bees cannot – or do not – go out into the world

where their true work is performed.

As with the beehive, we recognize that not all members can work in the community at large. Age and infirmity will keep some from doing what others must do on their behalf. But as Masons we must work and do Masonry outside the lodge, too – or the lodge will die.

The hive thrives when bees do their valued and valuable work for others. The lodge thrives when Masons do their valued and valuable work for others. We can never “sit down contented,” as the ritual puts it, when there is work to do in the community. And a good thing it is, for such would be the death of our lodge.

Freemasonry will thrive when we remember the hive! ✧



When Kendall Mills chose the theme for his 2008 year as master, he invoked memories of long sports practices and a familiar motto. **Together Everyone Accomplishes More, T.E.A.M., had been drilled into Mills by an old football coach.**

"It always stuck with me," Mills said. "I knew it was the perfect theme to rally the lodge behind."

Rally it did. Mills used the theme to launch a community service initiative that changed the lodge's relationship with the San Jose community. He challenged members to complete one service project a month in 2008. In matching T.E.A.M. t-shirts, Friendship Lodge No. 210 responded, volunteering more than 1,100 man hours and donating more than \$12,000 to community fundraisers throughout the year.

Mills was thrilled with the results – but not surprised. Before his year as master, he'd conducted a survey that asked members why they joined Masonry and what might inspire them to become more active.

"The responses came back with a strong theme," Mills relays: "Community service."

Why I became a Mason

"I didn't join the lodge to be master or go in the line," says Bob Moore, who was initiated at Friendship Lodge in April 2006. "I joined to meet other people and do things for the community."

Moore wasn't active with the lodge until the T.E.A.M. theme gained momentum. Once Friendship Lodge's focus shifted to community service, he felt he was finally fulfilling his Masonic purpose.

One of the T.E.A.M. community projects that really touched him was a November activity: volunteering time to sort and package food at the Second Harvest Food Bank warehouse.

"It wasn't hard to do, but everybody felt really good about it afterwards," Moore says. "I'd like to organize something regularly." Another of Moore's favorite events was combining with Palo Alto-Roller Lodge No. 346 to run a Child ID booth at a local fair.

"Everyone in my dad's generation was a member of a lodge, but today that's not true. We've kind of insulated ourselves from the community," Moore points out. "The food bank and the fair was a way for us to get back into the community and show that we're a community service organization."

Lending a hand

At the start of the year, Mills sat down and brainstormed 16 monthly events (whittled

by Laura Normand

Inspired to Act

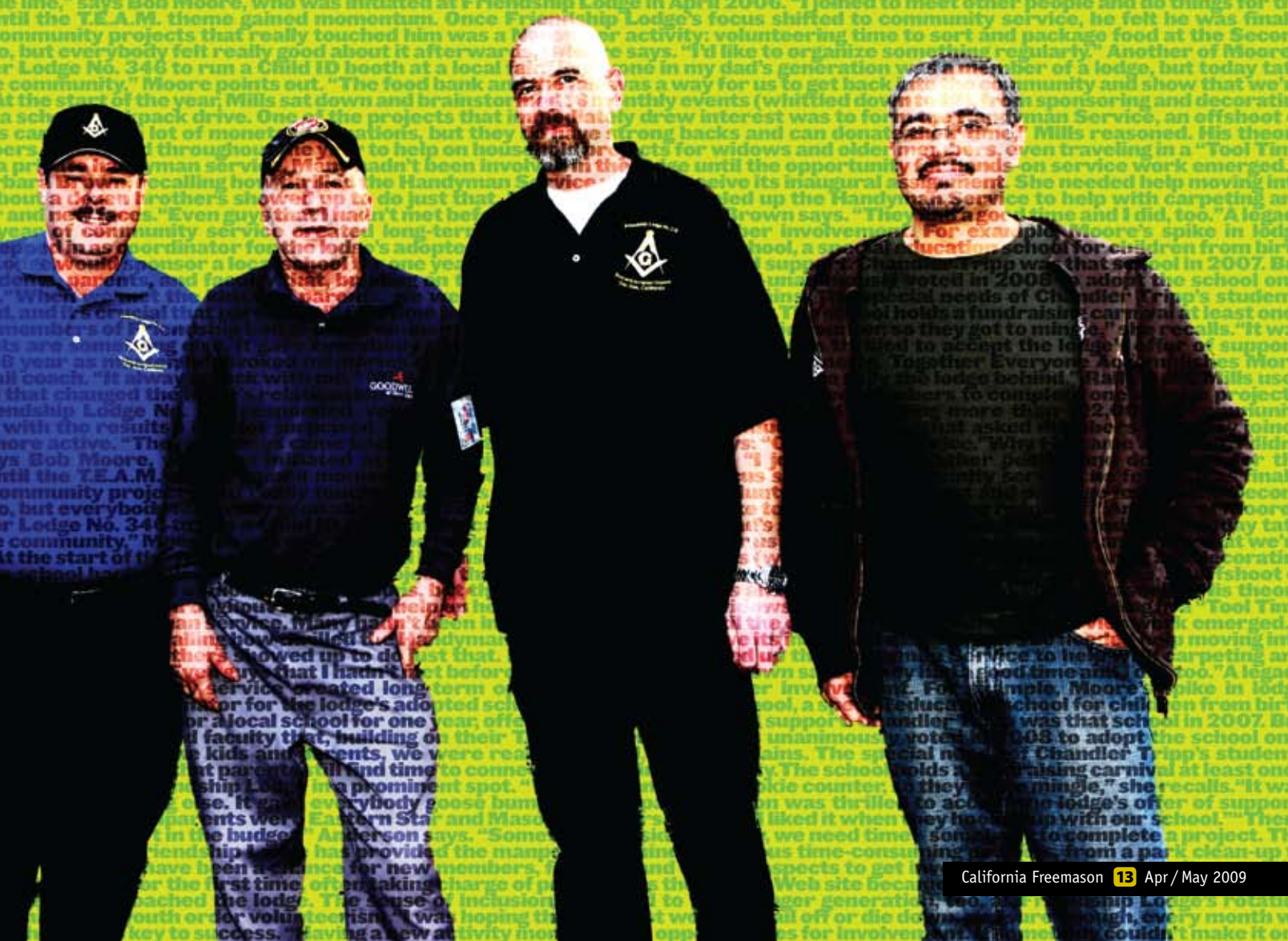
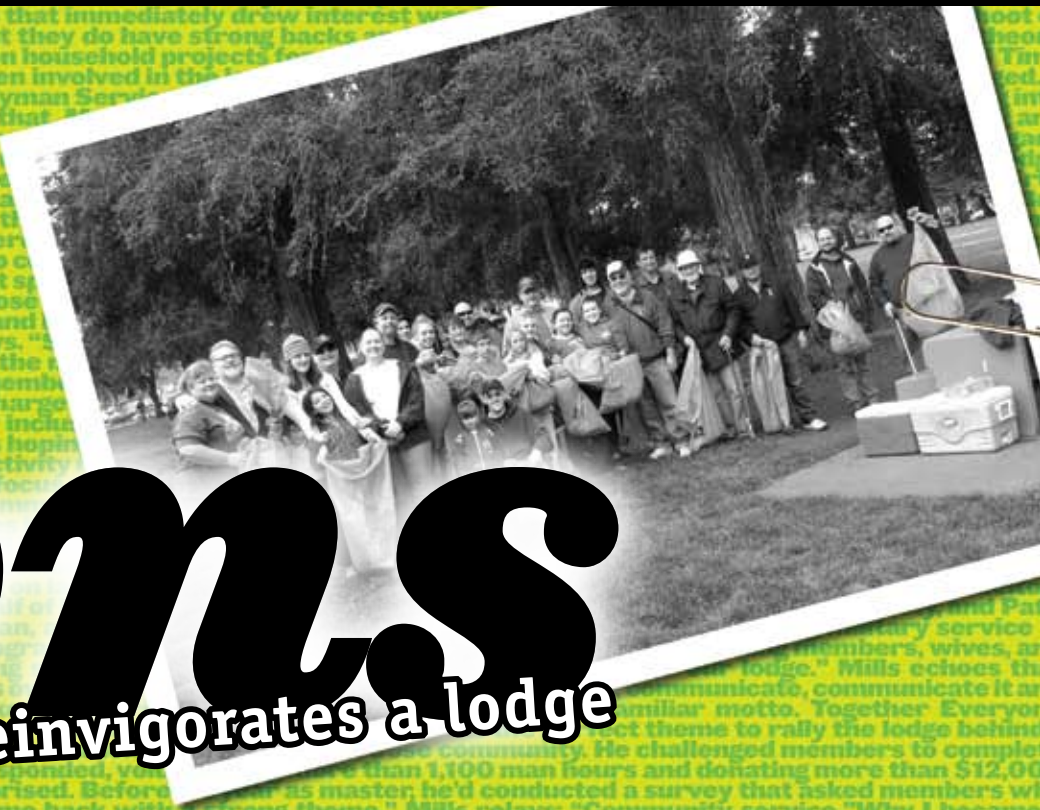
A year of community service



From left: Dory Taylor, junior deacon, Randy Shelton, master, Larry Smith, Goodwill employee, Kirk Wells, junior warden, and Jose Pulido, senior deacon.

Above right: For their March 2008 activity, the lodge brought together family, friends, neighbors, and youth orders for a community park clean-up.

iring from community service reinvigorates a lodge



down to 12), from sponsoring and decorating a Christmas tree in the community park to holding a school backpack drive. One of the projects that immediately drew interest was to form a Handyman Service, an offshoot of the lodge's widow outreach effort.

"Some members can't make a lot of monetary donations, but they do have strong backs and can donate their time," Mills reasoned.

His theory panned out. A loosely organized task force of members assembled throughout the year to help on household projects for widows and older members, even traveling in a "Tool Time Handyman Service" van owned by a member with a private handyman service.

"Community service is a large part of Masonry."

Many hadn't been involved in the lodge until the opportunity for hands-on service work emerged.

"I was the first to call and ask for their help," says Barbara Brown, recalling how thrilled the Handyman Service was to receive its inaugural assignment. She needed help moving into a new house after the death of her husband, and about a dozen brothers showed up to do just that. Months later, she dialed up the Handyman Service to help with carpeting and painting. Both times, the group was a mix of familiar and new faces.

"Even guys that I hadn't met before showed up to help," Brown says. "They had a good time and I did, too."

A legacy of support

Besides community partnerships, the year of community service created

long-term opportunities for member involvement. For example, Moore's spike in lodge involvement didn't end with 2008. This year, he's stepped in as coordinator for the lodge's adopted school: Chandler Tripp School, a special education school for children from birth to age five with disabilities.

Previously, Friendship Lodge would sponsor a local school for one year, offering primarily financial support. Chandler Tripp was that school in 2007. But the lodge members became so attached to the students, parents, and faculty that, building on their T.E.A.M. theme, officers unanimously voted in 2008 to adopt the school on a long-term basis – for at least the next seven years.

"When we met the kids and parents, we were really touched," Mills explains. The special needs of Chandler Tripp's students require parents and faculty to be especially involved, and it's crucial that parents still find time to connect with their community.

The school holds a fundraising carnival at least once a year, and Principal Taura Anderson stationed the members of Friendship Lodge in a prominent spot. "We put them at the cookie counter, so they got to mingle," she recalls.

"It was awesome," Mills says. "These kids and their parents are something else. It gave everybody goose bumps."

Principal Anderson was thrilled to accept the lodge's offer of support, which was coming from a familiar organization. "My folks and grandparents were Eastern Star and

Masons," Anderson says. "I liked it when they hooked up with our school."

"There are always ways that we want to enhance our programs that aren't in the budget," Anderson says. "Sometimes, besides money, we need time – somebody to complete a project. The lodge donates their time and skills."

T.E.A.M. includes everyone

Friendship Lodge has provided the manpower behind numerous time-consuming projects, from a park clean-up to building a picket fence for Chandler Tripp School. The activities have been a chance for new members, families, and even prospects to get involved with the community – and the lodge.

Many members' wives and mothers felt a part of the lodge for the first time, often taking charge of projects. As the lodge's Web site became peppered with photos and updates of group service projects, a greater number of prospects approached the lodge. The sense of inclusion extended to the younger generation, too, as Friendship Lodge's rotating schedule of community service was rife with opportunities for youth order volunteerism.

"I was hoping that interest wouldn't tail off or die down, and sure enough, every month we had some new people," Mills says.

Variety was part of the lodge's key to success. "Having a new activity monthly gave opportunities for involvement. If somebody couldn't make it one month, they could make the next one. That applied to prospective members, too," Mills says.

The focus on service spread throughout San Jose, too, starting with the January project, the One Warm Coat drive, which was advertised in local papers and drew members of the community to the Masonic center to drop off donations. More than 250 coats were collected. At the March park cleanup event, a group of lodge members, youth orders, and families had face time with passersby.

"We had people approach us and ask why we were doing all of that work, saying their grandfather was a Mason but they hadn't known we were still in existence. They were very appreciative," Mills says.

The youth orders also used the event as an opportunity to invite prospects, and the young faces in the crowd made an impression. "A few folks said that once their kids get older, they'll look us up," says Mills.

Forming a habit

As current master of Friendship Lodge, Randy Shelton is committed to carrying on last year's legacy.

"Community service is a large part of Masonry," says Shelton. "It lets the community know that Masons still exist, and that they can count on us."

In the first half of his year, he's partnered the lodge with Goodwill, the Humane Society, and Pat's Run, a run/walk that benefits leadership training for San Jose students and honors Pat Tillman, a local football hero turned NFL star who was killed during military service in Afghanistan. Shelton's also kept the focus strong on Chandler Tripp School and the Child ID Program.

Support has been unflagging. "We have so many willing members, wives, and families that donate time, money, services, and love to our community," Shelton says. "Finding someone to help out has never been an issue for our lodge."

Mills echoes that sentiment, paraphrasing the "Field of Dreams" quote "Build it and they will come" to describe his own experience: "Schedule it and communicate, communicate, communicate it and they will come." ♦



FRIENDSHIP LODGE'S 2008 COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS

JANUARY:	organized community-wide One Warm Coat drive
FEBRUARY:	kicked off Handyman Service
MARCH:	cleaned up community park
APRIL:	stuffed 1,000+ envelopes for Chandler Tripp School
MAY:	fundraised for and participated in Pat's Run
JUNE:	built picket fence for Chandler Tripp School
JULY:	hosted ice cream social and magic show at the Masonic Home at Union City
AUGUST:	partnered with Palo Alto-Roller Lodge to host Child ID booth
SEPTEMBER:	ran school backpack drive
OCTOBER:	led food drive and fundraising for the Second Harvest Food Bank
NOVEMBER:	sorted and packaged food at the Second Harvest Food Bank warehouse
DECEMBER:	sponsored and decorated Christmas tree for community park

MASONS *to the* RESCUE

by Richard Berman

In historic crises, California Masons put community first



On April 18, 1906 the history of California was changed forever. At 5:12 that morning a major earthquake struck near San Francisco, setting off a string of fires that destroyed large sections of the city and surrounding communities. The exact toll of the quake isn't known (political leaders of the day sought to minimize the numbers, and the "official" report claimed less than 500 fatalities), but it is estimated that nearly 25,000 buildings were lost, and more than 3,000 people lost their lives as a direct or indirect result of the catastrophe. For several years after the tragedy, many residents lived in tent cities as San Francisco slowly rebuilt itself from the ashes.

A decade later, a different kind of humanitarian crisis was at hand. After several years of resisting entry into The Great War, by 1917 the United States had entered one of the bloodiest conflicts in human history. And although American involvement in the war lasted for only two years, the toll was enormous. There were more than 70,000 dead or missing U.S. servicemen and almost 200,000 injured.

While these two cataclysmic events may seem unrelated, there was one common thread between them: California Freemasons' response. Masons in the state quickly mobilized to help their fellow citizens in their darkest hour, organizing as a group to provide support for San Franciscans affected by the earthquake and to aid American soldiers wounded on the battlefields of Europe.

Notably, these historic actions were undertaken to support others regardless of Masonic affiliation. While Masons have always put high priority on helping each other, these were major examples of brothers reaching out to the community with no discrimination between fraternal and non-fraternal neighbors.

WHEN DISASTER STRIKES: SAN FRANCISCO EARTHQUAKE AND FIRE

The San Francisco earthquake was a disaster on a scale that few American cities have ever seen. Like the Great Chicago Fire of 1871 or Hurricane Katrina that decimated New Orleans in 2005, the quake hit with such force and speed that it quickly overwhelmed the

city's emergency response capabilities. With the city in chaos (the fire chief was among those killed in the disaster), poor communication and a series of ill-fated decisions – including the overzealous use of dynamite – led to the resulting fires spiraling out of control.

In the wake of this tragedy, the citizens of San Francisco undertook heroic efforts to aid their injured neighbors and those who had been left destitute by the disaster. The city's Freemasons rose to the challenge and provided invaluable assistance, both as individuals and as a group. Grand Master Motley Hewes Flint traveled from Los Angeles to San Francisco to help in the effort, arriving the day after the disaster and noting that "the first matter of importance was the securing of funds to meet the immediate necessities." The next day, he used \$3,000 from his personal funds to do just that.

While it is impossible to chronicle all of the work done by California Masons, the Grand Master's Relief Report, which was published less than six months after the quake, provides many examples of brothers responding to the unprecedented challenges that faced not only San Francisco, but also nearby cities that had sustained heavy damage.

The grand master notes that the King Solomon Lodge building – which had been damaged by fire but not destroyed – served as a food station where hundreds of hungry people were given corned beef and bread, and that the home of Brother E.M. Percy was used "as a food station and supply point and also as a hospital in taking care of the sick." One brother in Mount Moriah Lodge No. 44 (now No. 292) owned a bakery and received permission to make bread despite a prohibition on fires in San Francisco: within three days of the earthquake he was making 2,000 loaves a day to be distributed through Masonic organizations and several other local charities, including a Jewish group and a Catholic hospital. Masons' wives and mothers in the San Francisco area helped distribute clothing and supplies around the clock. The grand master also reported that relief bureaus were set up in Santa Rosa and San Jose, both of which had sustained catastrophic damage.

IN TIMES OF WAR: WORLD WAR I MASONIC AMBULANCE CORPS

Dating back to the earliest years of the American republic, there had been a strong aversion to what Thomas Jefferson called “entangling alliances,” and many politicians of the early 20th century were wary of getting enmeshed in other countries’ conflicts. But after sitting out the early years of World War I, the U.S. finally jumped into the fray by declaring war in the spring of 1917 and sending millions of “doughboys” to fight in Europe. In support of the war effort, California Freemasons organized the Masonic Ambulance Corps of California, which allowed civilian brothers to serve under the auspices of the American Red Cross. Their role, according to the government, was to “...collect the sick and wounded, to afford them temporary care and treatment and to transport them to the next hospital in the rear.”

More than 80 Masons from California, along with a few from other jurisdictions, made their way to Europe and worked triage on the front lines of France. Their willingness to put themselves in harm’s way inspired Grand Master Francis Kessling to state, “The Masonic Ambulance Corps... are on their way to do their part, not as Masons but as citizens. Godspeed to them all and to those thousands who have gone into the service without ceremony.”

One lodge that is said to have been instrumental in the creation of the corps was Bethlehem Lodge No. 453, which consolidated with Crocker Lodge No. 212 in 1961. In a twist of irony and fate, Past Master Adolphus Graupner, who served as a captain in the Argonne campaign, was one of the wounded soldiers picked up and saved by the very organization that his own lodge had helped to create.

Most of the Yanks who served in Europe had no idea what to expect. Prior to being sent overseas, Brother Roy Loomer Davis Sr. wrote “I went to the Masonic Club and learned that our uniforms had arrived. ...When I stepped out of the hotel and started down Market Street toward the ferry, I frankly admit that I felt very self-conscious. If I looked nearly so conspicuous as I felt, it must have been very amusing to passersby.”

While a great deal of Masonic community involvement is centered on programs that serve communities where brothers live and work, the response by California Masons to these two great humanitarian crises a century ago reveals a greater truth about how members of the craft see their role in the world. Freemasonry’s tenets of brotherly love and relief drive members’ good deeds – for fraternal and non-fraternal neighbors, in times of crisis and every day in between. ✧

YOUR OPINIONS COUNT

→ The reader report card

Thanks to those who participated in the California Freemason reader survey last summer. More than 2,000 responded online or by mail.

More than two-thirds of respondents said the magazine addresses their interests in Masonry “very well” or “perfectly.”

As for the specific sections of the magazine, more than 70 percent always read the History article and the Feature/Cover story. A majority also always read the Editorial, In California, and Masonic Education, and said they want to read more about Masonic history, lifelong Masonic learning, applied Freemasonry, and Masonry around the world.

We will continue to deliver thought-provoking articles that are of the highest interest to members and include more articles on the topics identified as most significant. We hope you’ve noticed that we’re already including more history. Some of the issue themes that were suggested are slotted for the future. And we’ll continue to use the survey feedback as we plan for the coming year.

California Freemason magazine is committed to sharing Freemasonry in relevant and meaningful articles.

More than 80 California Masons worked triage in Europe during World War I as part of the Masonic Ambulance Corps.



by Cason Lane

HUNGRY TO HELP

Homes resident and retired police officer Art Ashfield is a valuable asset to the Union City Police Department, where he volunteers twice a week.

Volunteering feeds the soul for many Masonic Homes residents

For residents of the Homes, Masonic values are a way of life – literally. Not only are Masonic tenets the foundation of the Homes, they're also a common thread connecting residents.

One key Masonic value is community service, which holds true at Union City and Covina. After spending much of their adult lives volunteering, many residents continue to seek opportunities to be of service at the Homes and in the surrounding communities.

Carlene Voss, coordinator of volunteers and community resources at the Masonic Home at Union City, says that volunteering is simply a way of life for most residents.

“Our residents volunteer for about 58 different jobs here – from being tour guides to delivering and sorting mail in our post office to working in the craft shop,” she says. “A lot of Masons and Eastern Star members have been volunteering their whole lives, and this is a continuation of that volunteerism.”

Art Ashfield moved to the Home at Union City about 13 years ago and started volunteering right away. For four years, three days a week, he and his wife, Betty, managed the Home's “new-to-you” shop, which carries new and gently used clothing for residents. Today, they lead tours, prepare materials for prospective residents, and help new residents get acclimated to the campus.

"This place can be tough to get used to because it's very large," says Ashfield, 85, of San Diego Lodge No. 35. "As volunteers, we take care of the new people and help them get their bearings. We're glad to do that."

LEARNING THE LAY OF THE LAND

In addition to helping others learn the lay of the land, some residents take on volunteer assignments to help find their own way around the facilities. Shortly after moving into the Masonic Home at Covina less than a year ago, Ray Parkins volunteered to deliver the morning newspaper to the residents' apartments.

"I'm 80 years old, so I have to stay active," says Parkins, of Blythe-Needles Lodge No. 473 and Long Beach Lodge No. 327. "I'm up early in the morning anyway, so why not take the newspaper around to residents so they don't have to come looking for it? Plus, I have to go through all four buildings every day, so that helps me find my way around."

In addition to delivering newspapers, Parkins is a volunteer member of the Home's disaster team, which helps secure residents and the property in the event of an earthquake or flood. He also works an hour a day, two days a week, in the Home's general store, which offers toiletries and other conveniences to residents. Formerly a grocer, Parkins says he was naturally drawn to the opportunity and enjoys visiting retailers to gather items for the general store.

As a new resident at the Home at

Covina, Miriam Covey jumped right into volunteering to meet others and keep busy. Now the volunteer librarian, she sorts donated books, locates books for residents, and keeps the library organized. She also helps make quilts, yo-yo dolls, and other gifts for the Shriners Hospitals for Children, and she leads trivia contests and other activities when the Home's activity director is unavailable.

"There are so many who aren't able to do things," Covey says. "Since I am able, I get out there and do it."

OFF-CAMPUS COMMITMENTS

While there are plenty of opportunities at the Homes to keep volunteers busy, some residents also volunteer in the neighboring communities. Ashfield, an officer with the San Diego Police Department in the 1940s, volunteers twice a week at the Union City Police Department, where he helps out in the evidence locker and business office. On other days during the week, Ashfield is on call, so the police department may contact him to help direct traffic after an accident or find a missing person.

Ashfield sees volunteering – both in and out of the Home – as a way to be of service to his fellow citizens. "One reason I became a police officer was to do something to help the community," he says. "I just get a lot of satisfaction from helping people." Ashfield's example of Masonic values has influenced fellow Union City Police Department officers to seek out the fraternity: Officer Russell Hughes was raised

at Siminoff Daylight Lodge No. 850 in October 2008; Officer Brandon Hayward is an Entered Apprentice at the same lodge.

Fannye Lower, who also lives in the Home at Union City, delivers mail weekly to residents in skilled nursing, calls bingo once a week, and helps put together the daily activity calendar. Every Monday morning for the last 30 years, Lower has worked at the front desk of St. Rose Hospital in nearby Hayward. While Lower plans to retire this year from her regular volunteer schedule at the hospital, she hopes to continue as a front-desk substitute.

"Since I am able, I get out there and do it."

Volunteering has played an important role in Lower's life – which is why she strives to continue it at the Masonic Homes. "I like to give back for what I get, and right now I'm getting amazing comfort here at the Masonic Home – I can't ask for anything more," she says. "I just like volunteering and doing things for people."

Michaeline Roach, activities coordinator for the Masonic Home at Covina, agrees that volunteering is simply part of the culture at the Masonic Homes – and a mainstay for Masonic families. "That is their way," she says. "They have been volunteers all their lives." ✧



Miriam Covey, volunteer librarian at the Home at Covina, donates her time as a way to stay active and meet other residents.

Masonic Homes Survey Results

As part of a recent assessment of the services provided by the Children's and Family Services program, the Masonic Homes of California asked members to weigh in.

A survey was conducted with a representative sample of Masons and widows to determine if members are generally satisfied that the Homes supports the needs of Masonic families and to identify services that would be important additions to the program.

The majority said they feel satisfied that the Masonic Homes are supporting families' needs. When asked about prospective programs, the majority indicated that services for children with special needs and learning disorders would be the most important to offer.

Thanks to all those who took the time to give their opinions. The information will be very useful in planning new programs and services.

Connecting With the Homes

MASONIC OUTREACH SERVICES (MOS)

Masonic Outreach Services (MOS), a program of the Masonic Homes of California, provides 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

MOS 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@mhccuc.org.

ACACIA CREEK COMMUNITY

To learn more about the Acacia Creek community, visit acaciacreek.org or contact:

Acacia Creek at Union City

510/429-6479 or 888/553-7555

dwiley@acaciacreek.org

CHILDREN'S AND FAMILY SERVICES

For program information or to sponsor a child in need, contact **626/251-2227** or hramirez@mhccov.org.

SPEAKERS AVAILABLE

The Masonic Homes has speakers available to come to your lodge to speak about our range of services.

For more information, contact **888/466-3642** or communications@mhccuc.org.



BOARD AND COMMITTEE PROFILES

California Masonic Foundation Board of Trustees, 9 members

The board's purpose is to govern the California Masonic Foundation in fulfilling its mission to apply Masonic principles in support of education, leadership, and communities. The Foundation administers the Masonic scholarship program, sponsors the Masonic Student Assistance Program and the Child ID Program, underwrites annual Masonic leadership programs, and funds other philanthropic programs that touch the lives of thousands of Californians each year.

Fraternal Support Services Committee, 8 members

The committee's purpose is to provide information about fraternal support services available to members and widows. The Fraternal Support Services Committee helps lodges with identifying, maintaining contact with, and assisting Masonic widows and members in need. It also assists lodges with programs and materials relative to public schools involvement and constitution observance, and encourages lodges to appoint an ambassador to serve as a liaison between this committee and his lodge.

GET INVOLVED AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE

The Grand Lodge of California relies on members to provide volunteer leadership for the important work done by its committees and boards.

Committee and board positions are opportunities to share your expertise, enhance your leadership capabilities, and make a difference.

For information about the committees and boards, including a purpose statement and list of members, log in at the Member Center on freemason.org, go to ROSTER, then click on Boards and Committees.

If you are a warden, master, or past master who is interested in being considered for an appointment, please send an email to communications@freemason.org.



Lodge Management **CERTIFICATION PROGRAM**



This summer's series is fast approaching, so make your plans now to attend. Register early to gain the tools and training you need to effectively manage your lodge.

Each course is presented in an intensive one-day workshop. Four of the courses are also available online*.

2009 Locations and Dates

- June 6: Pasadena area
- June 13: San Diego area
- June 20: Fresno/Visalia area
- June 27: Sacramento area
- July 11: San Francisco area
- July 18: Chico area

Courses

- Program Planning*
- Lodge Finance*
- Hall Association Management*
- Membership Development*
- Lodge Administration

To download registration forms or sign up for the online courses, visit freemason.org and select Leadership Development from the Member Center pull-down menu. Contact Kim Hegg, Grand Lodge Program Manager, at **415/292-9111** with any questions.