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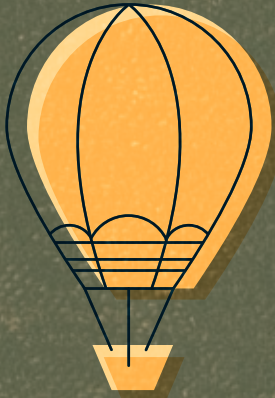


RAR
April/May 2013

READING TO SOFIA

HOW CALIFORNIA MASONS, RAISING
A READER, A SPECIAL SCHOOL, AND
TWO DEDICATED PARENTS

Brought the joy of reading to one young girl.



Our job at school
is to teach children
how to read. The job
at home is to teach
them to **love to read.**

Cynthia Marten
Principal
Central Elementary School

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Sofia Gonzalez is one of 2,000 children benefiting from the California Masonic Foundation's collaboration with Raising A Reader. This kindergartner's newly discovered love of reading and first steps toward academic success are owed to a strong foundation at home and some very special books, all made possible thanks to California Masons.



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Last fall, Division IX initiated a visionary lodge outreach program. Soon, your division may have one of its own.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGE

John F. Lowe, Grand Master



The Philanthropy of Love

Charity. Philanthropy. Together we make a profound difference. These are the watchwords of today's California Mason. By our nature, even before entering a Masonic lodge for the first time, we each have felt the importance of and the obligation to help others. After receiving our degrees, we feel even stronger that it is our duty to help our fellow man, and society as a whole.

Reinforcing this innate feeling is the scripture we hear upon entering the lodge as a Fellow Craft: "And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing... And now abideth, faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity."

Have you stopped to think, just what are "charity" and "philanthropy"? Are the words interchangeable? Don't philanthropists give out charity? Do we not give charitable dollars to a philanthropic entity? If we follow the words across the millennia we find they started out differently than we commonly use them today.

Charity, most people today would answer, is giving time or financial resources to those who are less fortunate. We may give directly to a person or group, or sometimes to a charitable organization in order to make a more widespread impact. Centuries ago, however, charity had a different meaning. The Latin word "caritas," meaning preciousness or dearness, became, over time,

the replacement for "agape," or unconditional love. When Saint Paul wrote the scripture above, he referred to having love – unconditional love. So, in reality, when we now say we give to feed the poor or those less fortunate, we are actually speaking in terms of love. Is that not truly a Masonic ornament?

Philanthropy at its root means love of man, caring for individuals. It speaks to improving the quality of life of all human beings. The origin of this word is likely owed to the Greeks, since they philosophically sought the betterment of man. Over time, "philanthropy" came to reference that which is for public good. More recently, Alexander Hamilton remarked at the founding of our nation that in establishing an independent nation with representative government, Americans were acting on behalf of, and for the benefit of, all mankind. In his famous words, "This idea will add the inducements of philanthropy to those of patriotism."

As patriots and as Masons, we are obligated to work for the common good of society through our own philanthropic endeavors. The California Masonic Foundation is a shining example of our fraternity joining together to make history. It is the embodiment of more than 60,000 individuals working collectively as one to benefit society. To make a profound difference.

So, how do the etymologies of the words "charity" and "philanthropy," the references to the Greeks, and a look at past millennia relate to today's Mason? I see a younger generation that understands the need for the existence of true charity. A generation that knows those who wear the mantle of Freemasonry are compelled to promote the good of society and to make a difference for others who are less fortunate. It is a timeless truth that good and true men will always step forth to help those in need. And in this still-young 21st century, the need for love, charity, and philanthropy surely will not soon diminish. ♦

FACES OF MASONRY

MEET DONALD L. GRIFFITHS MASON SINCE 1967

by Michelle Simone

Don Griffiths came to Masonry through another brotherhood: the Boy Scouts of America. Griffiths, now a two-time past master of Arcadia Lodge No. 278 as well as a long-time district inspector, happened upon a group of Scout dads – all Masons – who were talking animatedly among themselves during a retreat attended by Griffiths and his son. When Griffiths walked up to them, the conversation stopped.

They were a group of men that Griffiths greatly admired, and he knew immediately that whatever it was that had captured their attention likely deserved his as well. He asked about their “special connection,” and when he learned they were discussing Masonry, he asked what that meant. This was 46 years ago, and he hasn’t looked back since.

In his own words:

A LIFE IN THE CRAFT:

Being a Mason, becoming a Master Mason, and working with many of the various fraternal organizations connected with Freemasonry has affected my life tremendously. As the old song goes, “Nothing could be finer.”

AN OPPORTUNITY TO GIVE BACK:

Providing assistance to my brethren by supporting the Masonic Homes of California and the California Masonic Foundation, while at the same time meeting the needs of my wife and me and our two boys, can best be described as “a brilliant idea.”

A LEGACY OF BROTHERHOOD:

Many Masons are men who are really honest, forthright, charitable, and loaded with integrity. To me it is simply wonderful that these features rub off from one brother to another. ♦



One Mason's Legacy

As a generous gesture of gratitude for a life enriched by the craft, Griffiths and his wife, Dottie, recently made a gift of real estate to the Masonic Homes of California and the California Masonic Foundation. Proceeds from the property's sale will be used to deliver outreach services to members of the fraternal family in need of support and care, as well as to promote educational opportunities for deserving children throughout the state.



WEB EXTRA

Learn more at <https://www.freemason.org>

MASONIC CHARITY – A HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

THE FRATERNAL COMMITMENT TO RELIEF HAS DEFINED THE INSTITUTION OF FREEMASONRY

by John L. Cooper III, Deputy Grand Master

Each year the United Grand Lodge of England selects a prominent Mason to be the “Prestonian lecturer” for the year – fulfilling the wishes of William Preston, the author of our Masonic ritual lectures, who left money in his estate for “some well-informed Mason to deliver annually a Lecture on the First, Second, or Third Degree of the Order of Masonry according to the system practised in the Lodge of Antiquity during his Mastership.” In 1993 the Prestonian lecturer was Bro. John Hamill, a prominent Masonic scholar, who chose as his topic “Masonic Charity.” Bro Hamill made several important observations in his lecture, and I want to share some of them with you.

Our early brethren understood Relief to mean the alleviating of the suffering of a brother, or the dependents of a deceased brother, by giving money or sustenance until circumstances improved. In modern times we see Relief in its wider context of Charity, that is not simply providing money to relieve distress but actually caring and giving of our time and talents in the service of our communities as a whole and not just to our brethren and their dependents.

Bro. Hamill reminds us that one of the earliest tasks undertaken by the new Grand Lodge in 1717 was the creation of a central “charity fund” for use by the lodges. In 1727, the first charity fund beyond that of an individual lodge was created. A committee was established to dispense charity from this fund and its treasurer was named “grand treasurer” – the first use of this title. The committee received requests for assistance, and could grant up to five guineas without a vote of Grand Lodge for the relief of a distressed brother, his wife, widow, or orphans. This was a generous gift for those in need.

Economic historians have painted a bleak picture of poverty in 18th century England. The bottom twenty percent of the population were deemed the very poor, and their lives were ones of daily misery. Local churches (parishes) were responsible for poor relief, and only the old and disabled were entitled. Children whose parents were too poor to support them were sent to work for free as “apprentices.” A law of 1697 required anyone receiving public assistance to wear a blue or red “P” (for “pauper”) on their clothes. Those who were able to work, but could not find work, were whipped – for refusing to take non-existent jobs. It is estimated that during the first half of the 18th century half the population lived at the subsistence level – barely able to find enough money to stay alive.

It is against this background that the earliest Masonic charity needs to be seen. Masons in the 18th century had inherited the practice of helping their most needy members from the operative stonemason days of the Middle Ages. By the time the Charity Committee had come into existence in 1727 the nature of charity had changed from simply taking care of a





brother and his family on a building site to the actual giving of money to help out those in need. And such charity was generous by the standards of the day. Freemasons did not treat their less fortunate brethren as social outcasts. They did not beat a member who could not find work to support his family. They did not sell the children of a member of the lodge to work almost as slave labor for an unscrupulous employer. And they

did not require those who were recipients of Masonic charity to wear a letter designating them as “paupers.” What Masonic charity did was to treat those less fortunate as friends and brothers – an unheard of idea in the early 18th century.

Bro. Hamill points out in his Prestonian Lecture that Masonic charity is so important that it can almost be considered a landmark:

If we define a landmark as being something in Freemasonry which if it were removed its removal would materially alter the essence of our Institution then Charity is certainly a landmark. Without the second of its three Grand Principles, Freemasonry would be a different organization.

The practice of charity may truly be said to be a landmark, for if it were removed from Freemasonry, its removal would materially alter the very nature of our institution. The words of William Preston are still heard by every Entered Apprentice as he begins his journey into Freemasonry:

To relieve the distressed is a duty incumbent on all men, but particularly on Masons, who are linked together by an indissoluble chain of sincere affection. To soothe the unhappy, to sympathize with their misfortunes, to compassionate their miseries, and to restore peace to their troubled minds, is the great aim we have in view. On this basis we form our friendships and establish our connections. ♦

RELIEF AT ALL COSTS

ONE OF CALIFORNIA'S EARLIEST LODGES SACRIFICED EVERYTHING FOR ITS MEMBERS AND COMMUNITY

by Tania Rohan

Every Mason learns the importance of relief during the course of his initiation – it is, after all, one of the three guiding principles of the fraternity. From making charitable gifts to providing aid in crises of health and natural disaster, Freemasonry's spirit of generosity is well documented. What may not be known, though, is just how far some brothers have gone to uphold it. Like Sacramento's Jennings Lodge No. 4, which spent itself out of existence while helping victims of the 1850 cholera epidemic.

From New Jersey to the new frontier

In 1849, a group of Masons gathered at a train station in Newark, New Jersey. The Gold Rush had reached fever pitch, and like so many men at the time, they headed west to find their fortune. With them, they carried a dispensation from the Grand Lodge of New Jersey to form a new lodge in California. This new lodge – known at the time as New Jersey Lodge, U.D. – helped pave the way for Freemasonry in California. It was among the first in Sacramento and the fourth ever in California, forming even before the establishment of the state's

Grand Lodge. It acted under dispensation until 1850, when it joined the Grand Lodge of California under the name of Berryman Lodge No. 4. A few weeks later, it became Jennings Lodge No. 4.

The lodge acquired its name from Berryman Jennings, its first senior warden and an early master. Jennings was raised in Des Moines Lodge No. 1, in Burlington Iowa. Born in Kentucky, he was an enthusiastic Mason and a benevolent man, making many contributions to the communities to which he belonged. He was Iowa's first schoolmaster in that state's first school. He was also a member of the convention that organized the Grand Lodge of California, the state's first grand treasurer, and Oregon's first grand master. And he gave generously to his namesake lodge in its time of need.

'Like wind to fire'

Just as Freemasonry was gaining ground – and some lucky men were striking gold – in California, a deadly cholera epidemic was sweeping the land. A bacterial infection of the small intestine, cholera spread easily, especially where sanitation conditions were poor, as they often were in mining camps. Those who were infected suffered from high fevers, diarrhea, vomiting, and dehydration. And they died quickly, often within a day of the appearance of symptoms. This lethal strain was spreading quickly, helped along by the mad dash to Gold Country. Historian

Continued on page 8



HISTORY

George Groh wrote: “The gold rush was to cholera like wind to fire.”

No one is sure exactly when cholera reached Sacramento, nor the specific path from which it came. Most likely, it had multiple entry points. And what we do know is that by the time California achieved statehood, it had very much arrived. In “Cholera in the Time of Gold,” Pete Ahrens writes:

Associated with the glorious intelligence of our admission into the great confederation of states was the sad assurance that a most malignant cholera was sweeping on towards California, and that the passengers on the very steamer that brought the news had many of them fallen victims to this terrific scourge.

In one year, between 900 and 1500 people died of cholera in Sacramento: A staggering 15 to 25 percent of the city’s population of 6,000 at the time.

The price of relief

It was a trying time in Sacramento; the rapidly advancing disease – and the aggression with which it struck its victims – elicited widespread panic. Many of Sacramento’s inhabitants fled, hoping to save themselves. By some reports, the city’s population was reduced to one-fifth of its size in a matter of months. To help those afflicted with the disease, Jennings Lodge, along with Tehama

Lodge No. 3 and Sutter Lodge No. 6, teamed up with the Odd Fellows to erect a hospital. Despite the hospital’s all-volunteer administration, and a number of benefit events the Masons and Odd Fellows staged to raise public funds to support the hospital, it was a costly undertaking. According to Edwin A. Sherman in “Fifty Years of Masonry in California”:

[The three lodges] with a total membership of only 69, had disbursed in charity in support of the Masonic and Odd Fellows Relief Hospital at Sutter’s Fort and incurred an indebtedness of \$31,436.14, or at the rate of \$10,478.72 for each Lodge and an average of \$455.60 to each member.

Unfortunately for Jennings Lodge, this act of charity was the beginning of the end. The lodge had nothing left to cover its operating expenses, let alone its continuing extraordinary relief efforts. As a result, it incurred an insurmountable \$14,000 debt. Additionally, it owed \$3,949 for lumber and materials used in building the lodge room the previous year. When his lodge was unable to pay back that loan, Brother Jennings personally picked up the tab, and the brothers promised to pay him back at an interest rate of 10% per month. But when the loan came to term and Jennings tried to collect on it, they were already so saddled with debt that they were unable to pay him back.

By 1853, Jennings Lodge was no longer financially viable. Although it was the largest lodge in Sacramento, it relinquished its charter to the Grand Lodge, handed over its furniture to nearby lodges, and gave its jewels to the current master as a token of appreciation.

Despite a less than ideal outcome, the efforts of Jennings Lodge demonstrate the importance of relief to the fraternity. The benevolence of this lodge at one of the most difficult times in California history demonstrates that for Freemasons, charity comes first – before self-preservation and personal gain. ✧

TAKING MASONS OUT TO THE BALL GAME

BRINGING BASEBALL MITTS TO AT-RISK YOUTH, MASONS4MITTS RAMPS UP FOR ITS FIFTH SEASON

by Michelle Simone

At AT&T Park in San Francisco, applause rises from the bleachers and reverberates throughout the stadium, as the crowd rises in a standing ovation. But they're not, as you might expect, celebrating a ball flung from Tim Lincecum's famed right arm, or a home-run ricocheting off Buster Posey's bat.

These cheers are for Masons.

On the Jumbotron, the words "Masons' Night" flash orange and black. More than 500 Masons in the crowd are cheering and exchanging high-fives; their jubilant faces fill the big screen. The camera pans to home plate, where Masons4Mitts captains present a ceremonial check for nearly \$75,000 to the Giants Community Fund ("the Fund").

"There was tremendous enthusiasm and a tremendous sense of accomplishment and acknowledgement," recalls Jim Watt, who stood on home plate that evening. Watt, past master of Harding San Juan Lodge No. 579, is captain of the Sacramento Cyclones, one of Northern California's newest Masons4Mitts teams.

A league of Giants

The Fund initiated its flagship program, the Junior Giants, in 1994. Unique in function and design, the non-competitive summer baseball league serves boys and girls ages 5-18. Unlike Little League, athletic prowess and try-outs are not required; all interested children may participate. And rather than focusing on scores, children strive for character development. Coaches, who also serve as mentors and role models, provide encouragement and information about education, health, and violence prevention.



THE JUNIOR GIANTS IS A NON-COMPETITIVE SUMMER BASEBALL LEAGUE THAT SERVES BOYS AND GIRLS AGES 5-18.

"Lives are changed every year, in every league," says Sue Petersen, executive director of the Fund. "Because we provide a protected environment where there is no competition, kids feel safe – both physically and to express themselves. In this way, the Junior Giants provides experiences that they can't get at home or in school."

Continued next page

WEB EXTRA



Support your local Masons4Mitts team starting Opening Day (April 5), online at masons4mitts.org. Live outside of Northern California? Join the California Red Stockings!

It's not a far leap to find parallels between the Junior Giants' values of confidence, integrity, leadership, and teamwork, and the tenets of Masonry. Also, as in Masonry, a central focus of the Junior Giants program is supporting community. Teams are organized by local organizations, such as park and recreation centers and boys and girls

clubs, encouraging children to look to their own local organizations for support.

"It's about kids; it's about baseball; and it's about doing something positive," Petersen says.

Local Masons agreed. When the Fund announced a mitt drive at Giants' games, they were eager to help.

"The Masons heard about the drive and approached us," explains Petersen. "They said, 'We can take this on,' and stepped up to create Masons4Mitts, entirely of their own initiative."

A mitt of their own

Staff at the Fund had learned that many Junior Giants couldn't even play catch at home; nearly half came from families that couldn't afford to buy them a mitt of their own.

And, "there is always a need for a kid to have a glove," says Petersen. "New teams pop up every year, and in communities with transient populations, each year's team may be composed of new faces."

Masons4Mitts works like this: A league of Masonic teams, each composed of lodges grouped by geographic area, competes throughout the spring and summer to fund the greatest number of mitts. At the end of the season, the winning team presents a ceremonial check to the Fund staff during a special home plate ceremony at AT&T Park.

The program has been overwhelmingly successful. Teams have raised more than \$190,000 over four campaign seasons, providing mitts – which are emblazoned with the Masons of California logo – for more than 9,500 children. This year's goal will bring the five-year total to \$250,000.



OVER THE PAST FOUR YEARS, MASONS4MITTS HAS PROVIDED MORE THAN 9,500 BASEBALL GLOVES TO DESERVING YOUTH.

“People ask us ‘Why baseball gloves?’” says Doug Ismail, executive vice president of the California Masonic Foundation. “But this is about much more than sporting equipment. These are kids who literally don’t have much else. And we’re not just giving them a mitt; we’re also providing a chance to be part of a team, make friends, and live a healthy life.”

For the Fund, it is an ideal partnership. “Masons4Mitts echoes our Junior Giants value of teamwork, with Masons from throughout Northern California uniting under a common purpose to do something powerful,” Petersen says.

Playing in the big league

The Junior Giants footprint is growing. Tracing the Giants’ fan base and reaching 20,000 children, it stretches from Medford, Ore. in the north to Lamont, in Southern California, and as far east as Sparks, Nev.

Masons4Mitts is expanding, too. In 2012, Watt became the Sacramento Cyclones’ first captain. In addition to carrying donation slips everywhere, he initiated a three-step approach: presentations at local blue lodges, the Scottish Rite, and the Ben Ali Shrine; an email campaign to rally donations and measure progress; and monthly Trestleboard articles. Watt’s strategy worked; the Cyclones surpassed their goal by four times, funding 400 mitts. For 2013, Watt is building a larger team. His goal? To double last year’s number.

Masons in Southern California are invited to step up to bat, too: The California Red Stockings team rallies support from members statewide.

To get a sense of the heartfelt pride the Masons4Mitts program elicits from its supporters, one simply has to ask. When



THE JUNIOR GIANTS’ VALUES OF CONFIDENCE, INTEGRITY, LEADERSHIP, AND TEAMWORK CLOSELY RESEMBLE THE TENETS OF MASONRY.

posed with the question of why he agreed to lead a team, Watt grows nostalgic. “Almost every man has a little kid inside him who loved to play baseball,” he says.

“It’s thrilling to see members celebrating together at Masons Night. It’s the largest gathering of Masons in Northern California,” says Ismail. “But the best part is watching a little kid’s face light up when he’s handed a mitt to take home and call his own. And that’s because of us.”

As Watt puts it, “Masons, baseball, and kids – it just makes sense.” ♦



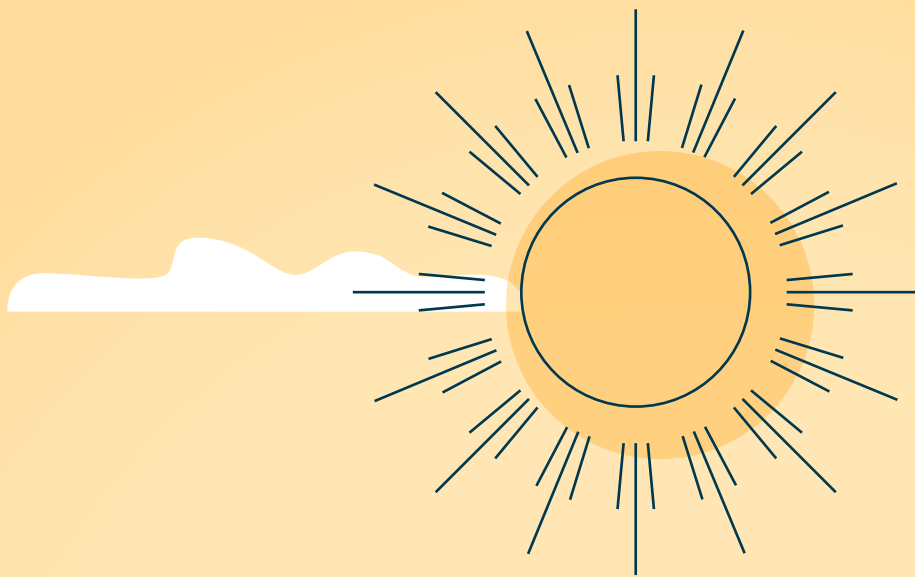
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HOW CALIFORNIA MASONS, RAISING A READER, A SPECIAL SCHOOL, & TWO DEDICATED PARENTS BROUGHT THE JOY OF READING TO ONE YOUNG GIRL

BY Heather Boerner



Books have not been easy for Sofia Gonzalez. The San Diego kindergartner has classic autism, which means that at 6, she is still learning to carry on conversations and has a hard time associating objects with the words used to describe them. So when Sofia was 2, she couldn't do a lot of what most toddlers could – she couldn't point to the apple or the cupcake in Eric Carle's children's story "The Very Hungry Caterpillar" as her mother, Patty Gonzalez, read it aloud.

Sofia could look at the pictures or she could engage with the story, but she couldn't do both at once. Then Gonzalez had an idea: to give Sophia a "job." Gonzalez photocopied every illustration in the book and had the objects laminated and pasted with Velcro. While Gonzalez read, her daughter could stick the apple on the apple; the cupcake on the

Continued next page



cupcake; and so forth. It took a lot of repetition for Sophia to get the hang of it, but she finally grasped the basics of reading.

“That’s why it’s so special to us that now, Sophia comes home with a book bag and at bedtime, she says, ‘These are my books. I want to read this book again,’” explains Gonzalez. “That first time she said this, my husband and I realized, ‘Look how far we’ve come.’”

Sofia’s progress is in no small part due to the Raising A Reader (RAR) literacy program, and to the California Masonic Foundation (the Foundation), which brought the program to her school. Since January 2012, some 2,500 California students can say the same, and that number is rising. The fraternity is on track to raise \$1.2 million over three years, bringing RAR to communities across California and 50,000 children throughout the state.

Family tops all other influences in a child’s educational success. Take, for example, a child whose parents have high school diplomas, and a child whose parents do not. Typically, there would be a wide achievement gap between these two children. But a Harvard study showed that as long as the second set of parents – those without the diplomas – were engaged in their child’s education from kindergarten through third grade, that achievement gap was completely eliminated. Parent involvement trumps any disadvantages.

Sofia’s parents intuitively knew this. Many other parents – more than one might imagine – do not. For the majority

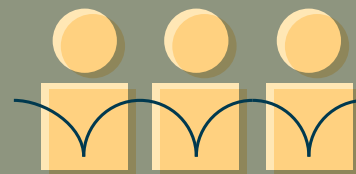
of the students with a red RAR book bag, that’s been the true game-changer.

MAKING A PROFOUND IMPACT

Many programs pump books into student hands. Fewer account for what happens next, when the child brings those books home. Do the books sit, untouched, in a corner? Do the children know how to use them? Do the parents?

Gabrielle Miller is RAR’s national executive director. “Not all families realize the importance of reading,” she explains. “Many don’t have the economic resources to have books in the home. They may not have the resources to drive in the car to the library to borrow books. Maybe they’re intimidated by the library. When children bring books home, parents need to know

“**I HEAR PEOPLE TALKING
ABOUT FAMILY ENGAGEMENT,**



**BUT I DON’T OFTEN SEE THEM ADAPT
WHAT THEY’RE DOING.**

THE MASONS ARE ADAPTING.”

Gabrielle Miller
RAR National Executive Director

what to do with those books. You need to provide the kind of support that families need.”

When RAR enters a school, a few things enter with it. One is a collection of red book bags; these are for the students. Another is a team of trainers. The trainers are for the parents, not the teachers or the students.

In two, three, or four trainings, parents learn the basics of language and literacy development. They see an example of how a child’s brain becomes active and grows when they share books at home. They learn simple ways to do this, even if they themselves can’t read or are not fluent in English. They learn why these activities are so important, and how the positive effects will ripple throughout their child’s entire life.

“At our heart, what RAR is really doing is getting families to set routines around reading together,” says Georganne Morin, senior director of programs, West Coast. “This is a precursor to homework. If families are already used to reading with their children every evening, it will become a natural extension to check on homework at night when those children reach upper grade levels.”

It’s simple cause-and-effect: Family engagement affects academic success. In study after study, parents who have been through RAR spend significantly more time reading with their child and building literacy skills at home. As a direct effect, their children show remarkable gains in school.

California Masons are driving the bus on RAR in California public schools. They climbed behind the wheel two years ago, when the Foundation went in search of a program that would lay the groundwork for not just literacy, but lifelong learning. RAR emerged as the clear answer.

To spread RAR’s program through the state, committees of Masons, called Public School Advisory Councils (PSACs), have convened in San Diego, San Francisco, the Bay Area’s South Bay, Orange County, the Inland Empire, and the Pasadena-Glendale-Burbank area to raise funds, identify schools, hold Public Schools Month kickoff celebrations, and work on strengthening the Foundation’s larger commitment to bolster California’s public education system. Masons outside of these areas who want



to be involved have been encouraged to do what they can in their communities to promote literacy, up to and including raising enough money to bring Raising A Reader to their towns without council support. Vesper Lodge No. 84 in Red Bluff is the first that has done so.

“I hear people talking about family engagement, but I don’t often see them adapt what they’re doing,” Miller says. “The Masons are adapting. They’re building a long-term system around it. They’re making an investment.”

SAVING OURSELVES

Central Elementary School is a Title 1 school, which means that 100 percent of her students live at or below the poverty line. The neighborhood where Central is located, San Diego’s City Heights, is hemmed in on the west and south by freeways. Eighty percent of

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Parent Engagement

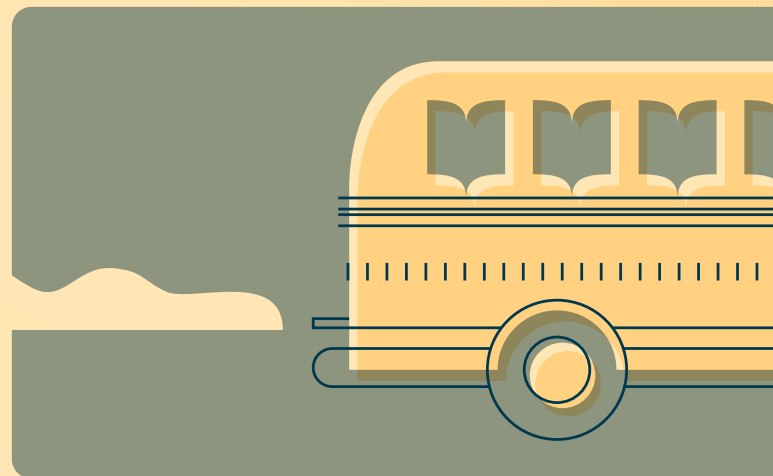
The second year of the Masons of California statewide philanthropic initiative – a partnership with Raising A Reader's (RAR) acclaimed child literacy program – is already well underway. Thanks to the support of generous donations from lodges and members throughout California, 100 classrooms and more than 2,500 students across the state will benefit from RAR's unique, two-part program.

In San Francisco, RAR is already in place in 25 classrooms. And educators are seeing a difference. By the end of their first year with the RAR program, students at San Francisco's Jose Ortega Elementary School demonstrated remarkable improvements in reading scores. In a San Jose kindergarten classroom, students using RAR's program were able to independently read 100 words. The school's previous standard had been 30.

"Raising A Reader has been a great tool and support for encouraging parents to keep sharing books with their children beyond just homework," says Mark Sanchez, principal at Cleveland Elementary School in San Francisco. "The program has provided a much needed resource for our school, which we would not be able to duplicate."

Across the state in Red Bluff, the RAR program has already been implemented in nine classrooms in the Union Elementary School District. Superintendent William McCoy values the family support and engagement that both RAR and the Masons have brought to his district.

"Raising A Reader helps us build connections to the families in our community," McCoy says. "By implementing [this program] in our schools, we are making a strong commitment to partnering with families and to early literacy."



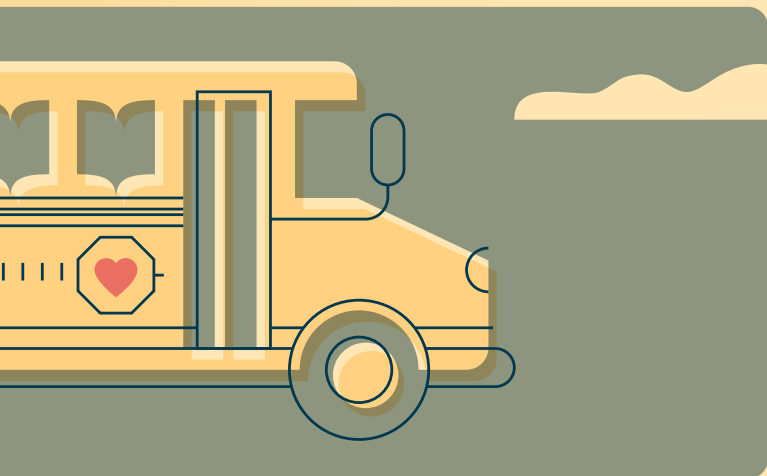
residents are renters and 44 percent are foreign born, hailing from locales as disparate as Vietnam, Somalia, and Mexico. And just about all students swing by the school nurse's office at lunchtime in search of a new pair of shoes or a winter coat.

Cynthia Marten is the principal here. Marten spent seven years at her previous school as a credentialed reading specialist. She knows how to deconstruct a children's book to discern how its components work together to deliver a meaningful family literacy moment – or not. When it comes to family engagement, programs have to be short on moralizing and long on tools for parents.

"I haven't, in my 23 years as an educator, met a parent who doesn't care about their child," Marten says. "Parents may come to school under the influence. They may be incarcerated, deported, or completely disassociated from their children. But even the most detached parent cares; in fact, the parents with the biggest struggles often care the most. They recognize that they've made mistakes and they want a better life for their children."

The leadership of the Foundation and some local Masons came through the school to talk to Marten about bringing RAR to her classrooms. "We want the same thing you do," she remembers one brother telling her. "We want to be part of your mission."

So these days, Central Elementary students have a new favorite ritual. Every week, little red book bags, branded with



the Masons of California-RAR partnership logo, arrive in their classroom. The bags contain a different set of books each week, all selected according to students' age and development level. There is also a DVD for parents, reinforcing the in-person training on how to use the books with their children. The DVDs came in a variety of languages to reflect the diverse backgrounds of Central families – Vietnamese, Spanish, English, and even Arabic.

"You can read a story together even if you can't read the words on the page," Marten says. "If a story is about making tortillas, a parent can remember how her grandma made tortillas and tell stories about that."

What RAR has allowed her students' families to do is engage with books in ways they hadn't before. The program has given them the tools to figure out how.

"When we saturate our communities with high-quality books, and give parents who want to show they care the tools to illustrate that, we empower families to be strong families," Marten explains. "For a lot of our families, if you give them five dollars, they won't use the money to buy a book. But if you put a book in their hand and say, 'Read this,' you have a real tool."

And that means that parents and teachers can work together to create an environment that fosters integrated, lifelong learning.

"Our job at school is to teach children how to read," Marten says. "The job at home is to teach them to love to read."

SOFIA'S SCHOOL BUS

By the time Sofia got her hands on her first red book bag, she was far past the stage of attaching Velcro illustrations to her books in order to understand the fundamental purpose of reading. She could follow along with what her mom was reading to her, but she hadn't really loved a book yet, says Gonzalez.

This was a disappointment to Gonzalez. She and her husband, Sergio, love to read, and wanted to pass that love on to their daughter. Sofia's father, a hotel room service attendant, loves autobiographies. Gonzalez, a professional assistant in financial services, calls herself Sofia's "autism case manager" and spends all her free time reading anything to do with Sofia's condition.

Because of all this, Sofia has had a leg up on the family engagement piece of the RAR program. But due to autism, she also faces challenges that a typical RAR student does not. Even for her, the program has been a breakthrough.

Continued next page



The school has introduced her to books and presented them in such a way that she can take pride in reading.

Patty Gonzalez

When Sofia read books before, she liked them, but she'd never really fallen in love with a book. A book had yet to fully capture her imagination. She was much more apt to play with her favorite doll, or to run over to a neighbor's house to play on the Wii or with Legos. So when Sofia appeared at home with her little fingers on the strap of her red book bag, Gonzalez knew something special was going on.

"She's taken so much ownership of the books," says Gonzalez. "She says, 'Look mom, we're going to read my books now.' I think it's different from what we normally do because it's not always books coming from Mom and Dad. The school has introduced her to books and presented them in such a way that she can take pride in reading."

Then there was the day that Sofia came home from school and settled into her normal nighttime routine: She took a bath, put on her jammies, then got ready for a bedtime story read by Gonzalez. But the book she wanted to read – an RAR selection called "The Little School Bus" – wasn't there. Its week in Sofia's book bag had come to an end and it had been switched out for a replacement. Sofia was alarmed, and then upset. She'd been asking Gonzalez to read the book to her twice a night for the past week.

The next day, Gonzalez called Sofia's teacher. "I think I need you to give me the same set of books we had last time," she said. "Sofia just loves that book."

They did get the book back, for short time. But it's been gone for awhile now and Sofia still asks about it.

Gonzalez has even approached Marten with her wonder at how engaged Sofia is now with her books.

"I told Cindy that I feel like writing a letter to the Masons, explaining how great this program has been for our daughter," she says. "Sofia isn't reading yet. But if she's willing to bring us the book and engage with us with it, we have hope that later on, when she can, she'll be the one reading to us." ❖

HOW CALIFORNIA MASONS GIVE BACK

MASONIC PHILANTHROPY FROM OUR MEMBERS' PERSPECTIVES

We asked more than 12,000 fans on the Masons of California Facebook page to tell us how they make a difference. Here's a sample of what they said:

**Vlad Badong**

By being a brother to all.

Ira Neal Mazer

By working with our youth orders — DeMolay and Job's Daughters.

Christopher Fightmaster

Today my lodge wrapped gifts to give to children at Saint Christopher's.

Dave Hentz

By helping those less fortunate.

Bo Luc Lac

By leading through service.

Kem Apak

By loving all the creatures of our creator, and trying to spread the cement of brotherly love and affection.

Steven Rosen

By providing relief to my fellow man.

Kevin D. LeQue

By giving my support to other fraternal brothers and other lodges within and beyond my reach.

Billy Campbell

By giving to Raising A Reader more than once.

John Hansen

By being a Mason in the military, I use the working tools to teach quality mentorship.

Russ Bittles

By making myself available to anyone who needs a helping hand.

Panos Rigas

By living by tolerance, benevolence, and brotherly love.

Adam Hensel

By striving to be someone my son can look up to.

**WEB EXTRA**

Read about California lodges' philanthropy initiatives, online at freemason.org.

THE GIVING LODGE

IN GOOD TIMES AND IN LEAN, CHARITY ALWAYS COMES FIRST AT RIVIERA LODGE NO. 780

by Reinhard Kargl

When Bill Branch, past master and current secretary of Riviera Lodge No. 780, speaks about charity, it is clear that he sees this virtue as intrinsically linked with Masonry. But he also believes that his personal drive to give back extends beyond his identity as a Mason.

“My late mother used to say, ‘It’s what you do for others that counts,’” Branch explains. “This may sound simplistic, but there truly is a special feeling that comes from it. Having given, I can go to sleep each night knowing I have done something good.”

This quest to ‘do good’ is firmly embedded in the lodge’s identity. Past Master Eric Hatfield echoes, “The members of Riviera Lodge believe that charity is an ideal and worthwhile activity,” and Master Fred Votto adds, “We live by the old saying, ‘It’s better to give than to receive.’”

A legacy of giving back

Many lodges participate in philanthropic endeavors, but what makes Riviera’s story out of the ordinary is the tenacity with which its members uphold their dedication to giving back. Despite the array of charities Riviera currently supports, it is not a historically wealthy lodge.

“At one time, in order for us to perform the simplest act of charity – even donating \$100 – we would need to take a collection amongst our members,” explains Past Master Lionel Ruhman.

The lodge operated on a frugal budget, its limited assets closely monitored by a dedicated finance committee who ran a tight ship with little waste. Riviera members even opted to rent rather than purchase a building, ensuring any surplus funds could be used to make the largest possible impact. And one donation at a time, for decades, this impact endured.

About 20 years ago, Riviera’s position was dramatically altered by an act of charity – this time one that benefitted the lodge. The widow of one of Riviera’s charter members, Margaret Grimmer, was so touched by the lodge’s generosity and service that she decided to grant them an extraordinary gift in return: She bequeathed 70% of her estate, about \$2 million, to Riviera’s temple association.

Rather than spending the money within the lodge, Riviera positioned itself to give back. The finance committee, already skilled at maximizing resources, wisely invested the funds. Their careful planning has led to substantial gains in net assets each year, allowing the lodge to sustain itself – and enables its surrounding community to benefit.

Since 1997, Riviera has awarded more than \$350,000 in college scholarships to graduating seniors. In addition, the lodge supports an impressive assortment of local organizations, including three elementary schools, a middle school and a high school; the Boy Scouts; a food bank, Meals On Wheels, and the Midnight Mission; the YMCA and YWCA; a taxi service for the handicapped and elderly; the Salvation Army; veterans’ causes; and the local library.

Riviera also provides ongoing generous support to Masons statewide through contributions to Masonic charities. From 1999-2012, the lodge donated nearly \$175,000 in support of fraternity-wide projects, the Masonic Homes of California, and the California Masonic Foundation. Riviera also contributes to the Masonic youth orders, Shriners Hospitals for Children, and several Scottish and York Rite charities.

And the lodge is quick to offer relief within the fraternity: In 1994, Riviera loaned \$1.35 million to Santa Monica-Palisades Lodge No. 307 – where Ruhman is also a past master – to enable reconstruction of their temple after a catastrophic earthquake.

Beyond the lodge

Riviera's combination of financial support and outreach has made the lodge a visible force in Pacific Palisades and beyond. In addition to donations, lodge members strive to connect with and make a difference in the community through their actions. Brothers enthusiastically participate in cornerstone ceremonies and neighborhood parades, and plan regular appearances at school events, including scholarship award ceremonies and parent fundraising activities.

"When I was Master in 2007," Hatfield remembers, "I was invited to all the schools we support and attended several of their fundraising events as well."

At each school event Hatfield visited, parents heard about Riviera's donations and wanted to learn more about Freemasonry and about the lodge. Several long conversations ensued, providing Hatfield and other lodge members with an opportunity to demystify Masonry and represent the fraternity in a positive light. To offer another source of accurate and historic information about the craft, the lodge has donated a collection of books on Freemasonry to the local library.

These community connections have given the lodge so much visibility that they now receive funding requests and event invitations from local schools and nonprofits year-round – through the mail, during guest presentations at lodge dinners, and from member suggestions. And the finance committee is ready. Committee members analyze each proposal for feasibility and maximum impact, then present their recommendations to the lodge during monthly stated meetings.

It's not all work for committee members though; at the same time they're ensuring the lodge's financial viability, they are also solidifying old friendships and building new ones. The seven committee members share deep social and fraternal

Leading the Charge

Ionic Composite Lodge No. 520 in Los Angeles has a special tradition: All officers make personal pledges to a charity. Donations reach both inside and outside the fraternity. Each officer chooses a personal philanthropy to support, and all officers also pledge to contribute to the fraternity's Annual Fund. Ionic Composite proudly holds a six-year record of 100% lodge officer participation in the Annual Fund.

"Officers are leaders, and we have to lead by example," explains Ionic Composite's current master, Jeffrey Bear. "As Masons, we are all obligated to charity, but how can we expect of others what we are not doing ourselves?" Although each officer is expected to contribute, there is sensitivity to possible financial hardships. The amount given does not matter, says Bear, but is left to each officer's ability and conscience.

"Some officers have a lot of money and are able to give thousands; others can only afford a few dollars. It's the principle that matters. And all our officers have strong feelings on that."

bonds, and are active in other lodges and Masonic bodies, too. All Riviera members are encouraged to attend finance committee meetings. Committee members' main goal is to ensure that the lodge's spirit of charity and service will continue through future generations of Riviera Masons.

"Money doesn't do any good sitting in the bank," notes Branch. "And it isn't the amount, but the principle that counts. The value of giving to those in need is that you have demonstrated your support." ♦

MEET THE NEW SCHOOL COUNCILORS

PUBLIC SCHOOLS ADVISORY COUNCILS TAKE ON THE PLIGHT OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS

by *Laura Normand*

Dennis Brandt knows how to talk shop. From PI (program improvement) to FAFSA (as in the federal aid) to DOE (that's the department of), he's fluent in public education.

"When you say 'schools,' my ears perk up," as he puts it.

Brandt picked up this second language as a teacher in California. Today, although he's technically retired, he still has plenty of practice. Besides staying involved as an education consultant and a representative of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, he is the chair of a regional Public Schools Advisory Council. This gives him another acronym to add to his vernacular: PSAC.

The label may sound generic. But in fact, the advisory council was created by and consists entirely of California Masons.

Deputized for public ed

All told, about 50 California Masons lend their time and expertise to six of these councils: Orange County, Inland Empire, San Diego, San Francisco, South Bay, and Pasadena/Glendale/Burbank.

By 2011, California public schools were reeling from budget cuts and policy changes.

The Grand Lodge of California had responded in its strategic plan, including in it a promise to develop a statewide program for public education. A literacy partnership with Raising A Reader had recently been ushered in, the first in a shift away from one-year "Grand Master's" projects and towards long-term, continuous projects for the fraternity. The fraternity's new scholarship program, Investment in Success, was poised for its second round of awards to California students. The scholarship, which targets deserving high school seniors who might not otherwise attend college, demanded a rigorous interview process, and contacts throughout the state who could help.

In this changing climate, with sweeping public education initiatives in the works, the fraternity needed command centers to coordinate efforts. Grand Lodge mustered fraternal volunteers and organized them into regional clusters.

For now, these councils are focused on three priorities: Fundraise for the fraternity's Raising A Reader partnership, which is bringing the early literacy program to at-risk elementary school classrooms; interview and recommend Investment in Success scholarship recipients in their areas; organize Public Schools Month kickoff celebrations, an important showcase for community support of schools.

Regional reps

Brandt was an obvious recruit for the Inland Empire council, which includes Riverside County. As past master and current treasurer of Temescal Palms Lodge No. 314 in Corona, Brandt had already been running his lodge's public schools program for more than 30 years.

The Inland Empire council is the youngest of the six councils, but it hasn't had many growing pains. The lodges in the area are notorious for working together. Division VIII Masons even have their own website, division8masons.com, and over the past four years, have held four division-wide fundraisers for various fraternal projects. For their fifth year, they have teamed up with

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the Inland Empire council. All proceeds from the event, which is open to the public, will go to Raising A Reader.

In Orange County, council chair Ray Godeke fit a less obvious profile. A past master of Anaheim Lodge No. 207, Godeke has a professional background as a senior financial manager in publicly and privately held companies.

“Our council members have diverse backgrounds – some from education, some from sales, some from manufacturing and distribution – representing fairly well what goes on in the private side of Orange County activity as well as in the public schools,” Godeke explains. “Our first goal was to have representatives from as many of the lodges within Orange County as possible, then we started identifying who could represent a good portion of the area in general.”

Godeke’s highlight on the council so far has been his work with the Investment in Success scholarships. “In the interview process, all the applicants were extremely interested. They finally had an opportunity to get some help,” he says. “Then we went to the schools to make the presentations. The schools, the superintendents were extremely supportive. I think Masonry showed well. We’re pretty darn excited about what we did.”

Public programs like these reinforce the work of the fraternity.

“Last year we did the Public Schools kickoff in April in San Jacinto Unified District,” Brandt recalls. “We provided two kindergarten classrooms at San Jacinto Elementary with Raising A Reader. The superintendent loved it so much, she picked up the tab for another classroom. Because we got good press coverage, you could categorize our success as community awareness, not only for public schools but for Masonry in general.”

Localized efforts, statewide goals

Inland Empire sprawls across the agrarian Coachella and Imperial Valleys all the way east to the Colorado River.

“There are huge challenges here for schools – language issues, economic issues, parental issues,” Brandt acknowledges. “I wish I could wave a magic wand. But we are doing what we can.”

Of course, many of the challenges faced by Inland Empire’s council are vastly different from those in Orange County, which are different from San Francisco’s, and so on. But when it comes to the big picture, all six councils have common ground.

“The mission is to support public schools as we have been since 1850, when the Grand Lodge was established,” Brandt says, “and as we have been since 1920, when the grand master established Public Schools Week.”

“It’s heartwarming when someone comes up to us at a public schools program – maybe a student who says, my grandfather died and he left me a (Masonic) ring, or a parent who will say, I used to be a DeMolay or Job’s Daughter,” he continues. “It brings all those memories back to people. It becomes part of a personal connection with our educational programs. It makes me proud to be a Mason.” ❖

CALL TO ARMS

DIVISION IX MASONS ORGANIZE AROUND OUTREACH

by *Laura Normand*

When you find yourself suddenly vulnerable, particularly after a lifetime of independence, your natural response may be the most dangerous: You freeze.

You wait to seek help, hoping things will improve. You wait even as you realize that your health or finances are in real trouble. If you wait too long, the situation may slip beyond your control.

But in San Diego, there's a safety net to catch you.

For the past 18 months, Division IX Masons have been building this safety net for brothers and widows. They are training lodges to perform better outreach. They exchange emails and phone calls to keep tabs on vulnerable members. They meet quarterly with Masonic Outreach Services (MOS) staff.

"Outreach is a changing area," says John Heisner, who helped develop the program. "You have to know the services. You have to know how to walk into an environment where someone looks at you and says, 'What do you mean, you're here to help me? How do I know I can trust you?'"

Demand and supply

Division IX is the first and only division to have the lodge outreach program so far, for this reason: They asked.

In 2011, Jim Kurupas had already been Division IX's assistant grand lecturer for three years. He heard about a widow who needed support, and emailed MOS. It was his first contact with Director Sabrina Montes.

"Once I began talking with Sabrina, I found out what the process was," Kurupas recalls. "At first I was a little embarrassed – geez, how did we not know this was going on? I talked to the

Masonic Homes Board and said, 'We need to teach our members how to ask the right questions and get in touch with MOS.'"

As a Masonic Homes Board trustee, Heisner (who is also an inspector) had come to the same conclusion. He suggested organizing a formal outreach program in San Diego. Kurupas had already demonstrated that there was an interest for it, after all. And it could serve as a trial run for the rest of the state.

In the fall of 2011, Montes, Kurupas, and Heisner tapped Division IX inspectors to spread the word: There would be a volunteer meeting to discuss outreach. At the first meeting, brothers of all degree levels, wives, officers, and lodge ambassadors from throughout San Diego convened with MOS staff.

Three months later, at the next meeting, almost all of the volunteers returned. It was among the first signs that the program could work.

Beta testing begins

The volunteer group met quarterly for a year to evaluate the outreach challenges that lodges face; what tools lodges need; and what infrastructure could best support lodge outreach initiatives. Kurupas, Heisner, and Montes decided to use the districts as points of contact, then create a network between the districts and MOS.

As Heisner puts it, "We needed an educated core of folks. They could help the

Continued on page 27

*“If we’re
going to **say**
we’re here for
our members,
let’s really
be here.”*

— Jim Kurupas, assistant grand lecturer, Division IX

lodges identify members needing outreach, and put MOS together with folks who need help in a more efficient way.”

Kurupas asked every Division IX inspector to recommend at least two brothers from his district to be training coordinators. Last August, 13 brothers arrived at the Masonic Home’s Covina campus for their first training session, a full-day event.

Several months later, armed with a PowerPoint, a hefty binder of MOS references, and an information packet designed for lodge leaders, the training coordinators set out to visit every lodge in their district, as well as the district Schools of Instruction.

One goal, of course, was to instill a basic knowledge of MOS in the pillar officers of the lodge. Another was to emphasize the importance of outreach. A final goal was to establish a strong, active network that lodges can plug into for help.

“This had to be a partnership, not a hit-and-run,” Heisner says. “We had to have Grand Lodge backing, we had to have services available, and then we had to have the lodges and the leadership promote outreach, teach it, instill it in the leaders. Now it’s here to stay.”

Casting a wider net

Since the outreach program began, at least three different outreach cases have been initiated by Division IX Masons. Without the program, they might never have crossed MOS’ radar.

In the earliest instance, news reached the network that an elder Mason was struggling to care for his wife, who had dementia. Two training coordinators – one from the member’s lodge and one who lived closer to the member – alerted MOS, then teamed up to make contact with him. Within days, one had paid him a visit and confirmed that he wanted MOS support. Montes and her staff, waiting in the wings, quickly sent out a care manager.



WEB EXTRA

Learn more about the safety net MOS can provide for your lodge. View archived resource guides from past issues of The Leader online at freemason.org/newsEvents/leader

“We were doing back-flips,” Montes recalls. “The system worked. It was the safety net in action.”

Training coordinators will return to lodges every year or two to repeat training. In the interim, they will continue to meet quarterly to refine outreach efforts and strengthen their San Diego network. The long-term hope is to create lodge outreach programs in other parts of California, eventually stretching the safety net statewide.

Here in Division IX, Kurupas, Heisner, and Montes are galvanized by the outpouring of support. All three talk about the energy and enthusiasm surrounding the program. Even brothers who have historically avoided leadership roles have found a calling in outreach.

“In the five years I’ve been assistant grand lecturer, this has been the most rewarding part of my job,” Kurupas says. “We go to degrees; we go to meetings; we go to social events. But this touches on the welfare of our members. If we’re going to say we’re here for our members, let’s really be here.”

“We’re doing something that matters,” he says. “We’re doing something we promised we would do.” ♦

Connecting with Masonic Assistance



MASONIC SENIOR OUTREACH SERVICES

Masonic Senior Outreach Services, a program of the Masonic Homes of California, provides eligible senior members of our California 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 may include:

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

Masonic Senior Outreach Services 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@mhuc.org.

MASONIC FAMILY OUTREACH SERVICES

Masonic Family Outreach Services 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@mhuc.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

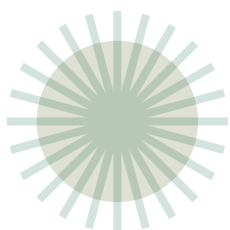
To learn more about Acacia Creek, our new senior living community in Union City, visit acaciacreek.org or call 877/902-7555.

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@mhuc.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

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We support and serve the whole family

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Call **888/466-3642** for information and support





CALIFORNIA MASONIC SYMPOSIUM

june 22nd - pasadena

june 23rd - san francisco



Struggles for Control of Freemasonry: Great Britain and America in the Early Grand Lodge Era

In eighteenth century England, rival grand lodges – the Antients and Moderns – battled for control of the craft. The impact of their division, and eventual reunification, affected Masonry throughout the continent.

Join us for an exploration and investigation into how this clash of Masonic titans impacted European Masonry, and traveled with pioneering Masons to the American Colonies.

Henry Wilson Coil Lecturer:

John L. Belton, Ph.D. – Founding senior warden of Internet Lodge No. 9659 in England, Belton is an accomplished Masonic scholar and writer, specializing in the union of the English Antients and Moderns Grand Lodges in 1813, revolutionary fraternalism, and the post-1945 decline of Masonic membership.

Accompanied by:

John L. Cooper III, Ph.D. – Deputy grand master and past grand secretary of Masons in California, Cooper is widely regarded as an expert of Masonic history and symbolism.

R. Stephen Doan, J.D. – Past grand master of Masons in California, Doan is a frequent lecturer and respected scholar of Masonry and political processes.

S. Brent Morris, Ph.D. – Bestselling author and editor of the Scottish Rite Journal, Morris is past master of Quatuor Coronati Lodge, the premier research lodge in London, a past Henry W. Coil Lecturer, and a Mackey Scholar of the Scottish Rite Research Society.

June 22: Pasadena Scottish Rite Cathedral

June 23: San Francisco Scottish Rite Masonic Center

Registration is \$10. Enroll at freemason.org > Member Center > Masonic Education.
Questions? Contact Kim Hegg, program services manager, at khegg@freemason.org.



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IT TAKES 60,000 MASONS TO BUILD A LEGACY.

Centuries of California Masons have pledged to care for our Masonic family,
and the communities we serve.

Through innovative programs, we provide relief for fraternal family members of all ages, and
create unprecedented educational opportunities for children who need our support to thrive.

These life-changing services all start with one person: you. By making a gift to our
Annual Fund, you make a profound difference.

**WHEN WE BIND TOGETHER - 60,000
MASONS STRONG - OUR SUPPORT
CREATES A SHINING LEGACY.**