

DECEMBER / JANUARY 2012



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MAKING

MEMBERS

TOP PRIORITY



10

11 12

“OUR GREATEST **KEY TO SUCCESS**
HAS BEEN THAT PEOPLE
COME to the LODGE and THEY SEE
TEAMWORK.”

➤ **JAMES TANDY, MASTER**
FRANCIS DRAKE LODGE NO. 376

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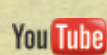
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CONTENTS

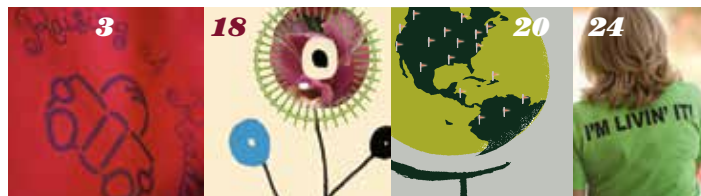
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10 FEATURE

Brothers Above All Else

Among California Masonry's 2010-2015 strategic priorities is a call to action to enhance the membership experience. Here are four California lodges that are embracing the cause, and thriving. Want to know how? With a multitude of success strategies, these lodges share their tactics. They all have one thing in common: putting members first.



2 EXECUTIVE MESSAGE
6 IN CALIFORNIA

23 FACEBOOK POLL

3

IN CALIFORNIA

In 1920 California Masons set an example for coming together as a community to support public schools. Nearly 100 years later, we're doing it again.

8

LODGE SPOTLIGHT

Two California lodges get techy – from Twitter feeds and Facebook pages to mobile alerts and online payments.

18

MASONIC EDUCATION

According to John Cooper, "To ask a Mason why he is a Mason is analogous to asking a gardener why he gardens." Read why.

20

AROUND THE WORLD

From rituals to regalia, the membership experience is often defined by where a Mason is raised. Here are a few culture contrasts.

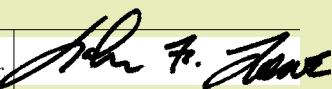
24

MASONIC ASSISTANCE

A new philosophy has redefined aging at the Masonic Homes and Acacia Creek, and a host of successful aging programs are in full swing.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGE

John F. Lowe, Deputy Grand Master



Resolve to *Excel*

Each new year brings the hope of a fresh start in our lives, our jobs, even our fraternity. Most of us engage in the time-honored practice of New Year's resolutions, whereby we pledge to make a change in matters ranging from being nicer, to attending more lodge meetings, to everyone's favorite: losing weight.

This new year also presents the opportunity to fully embrace and engage our fraternity's 2010-2015 strategic plan in your lodge and community: to place our shared priorities of relevance and member experience front and center, and resolve to hold them as the 24-inch gauge to measure our work all year.

Throughout this issue you will find information covering the various parts of the plan and how they interrelate. I ask that you then review how best to apply, reinforce, and embed these objectives into your own lodge, and into your own daily life. This is our chance to set a firm course for the next five years and succeed.

While you are forming your first resolution for the year, place it in the context of our *mission*, the notion that sets Masonry apart from other organizations: *We foster personal growth and improve the lives of others*. Can you engage your brothers in that thought, to grow and improve the lives of others? Is your lodge engaged in making a difference in your community? Perhaps your lodge provides Masonic education for your members – but shouldn't we also provide education on applying our principles

while volunteering in community service? Haven't we talked about always showing Masonry in a positive way, whether we are speaking to a city council or feeding homeless people in a shelter?

Your second resolution should include *vision*; not just a vague goal, but clarity in moving toward an end state of what good looks like. We are respected, so leverage that strength in your plans and programs. What is needed in your community that your members can provide? Ask your members about their vision of being a Mason. This can be key to their engagement in making a difference throughout the rest of their lives. And don't forget your vision in helping your brothers remain engaged in enjoying the fellowship and principles of Freemasonry across our jurisdiction, across America, across the globe.

Already, our constitutional boards and committees have aligned their goals and programs to meet our strategic objectives. At this past spring's leadership retreats, many of you discussed your thoughts on how your own lodge can make a difference in the community. Your Grand Lodge leadership has also aligned their goals to ensure we meet your expectations and reach the goals that our entire membership has set forth.

Together we can educate our membership. Together we can engage our members in reaching goals and objectives that make a profound difference in our communities. Together we can excel in the coming weeks, months, and years.

Are you ready to move *beyond the lodge*? ♦

BRINGING THE PUBLIC BACK TO SCHOOL

NEW PUBLIC ED PROGRAMS ARE POWERED BY MEMBERS AND POINTED AT COMMUNITIES

by Heather Boerner

They say history repeats itself. In 1920 California Masons led a statewide, grassroots effort to help lead California public schools out of disarray following World War I. It was called Public Schools Week, and it started our annual tradition, now called Public Schools Month.

It was not the last time that Masons would call upon their communities for the sake of public education.

Nearly 100 years later, California Masons are once again setting an example for public school support, and challenging their communities to follow suit. Fueled by the 2010-2015 strategic plan, the fraternity is rallying support for three new programs to revitalize our schools.

1-2-3s of public school support

The first of the fraternity's new programs will turn the page for child literacy in our state. California currently ranks near the bottom in the United States for early child literacy. In an effort to address this issue, the 2011-2012 Grand Master's Project initiates an exciting partnership with Raising A Reader, one of the largest and most successful child literacy programs in the nation. For the partnership's first year, the goal is to help more than 6,000 kindergarteners from California's lowest-performing schools. By developing strong early reading skills, studies show that these children will have greater success in school and a better chance at long-term career success. (See this story's sidebar, page 5, for more information.)



STUDENTS AT JEFFERSON STATE PRESCHOOL IN DALY CITY RECEIVE THEIR FIRST BOOKS FROM RAISING A READER. THROUGH THE PROGRAM, THEY'LL GAIN CRUCIAL EARLY LITERACY SKILLS.

The second program is Investment in Success, the new scholarship program that made its first awards to California students last spring. The California Masonic Foundation (CMF) awards these scholarships to students who demonstrate an active pursuit of education in spite of hardships. Although these students may not fit the traditional profile of a high academic performer, they are recommended by principals, teachers, and guidance counselors for demonstrating great character and drive. Often, they are juggling school with immense challenges at home, such as caring for a sick relative or younger siblings, or working part-time to help pay household expenses. For most of these students, the Investment in Success scholarship is the

Continued next page

IN CALIFORNIA

first public expression of support for their extraordinary efforts and scholastic potential. The scholarship provides not just the financial means, but also the encouragement that these students need to pursue higher education.

The third program is focused on improving the state's ability to teach algebra in middle schools. Just as early literacy skills are important in elementary school as a foundation for learning, middle school math introduces the abstract thinking and problem-solving skills that students need to succeed in high school, particularly in the sciences. But right now, only half of all middle school students are prepared to take algebra. CMF is taking part in statewide efforts to address this issue.

Marching orders

All three programs are growing with the help of brothers who are lending their time and expertise to public schools advisory councils.

THE CALIFORNIA MASONIC FOUNDATION WILL BRING THE RAISING A READER PROGRAM TO PUBLIC SCHOOLS FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THE U.S.



RAISING A READER'S RED BOOK BAGS HAVE BECOME A SYMBOL FOR CHILD LITERACY THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY.

"These men are the army that will implement critical aspects of the plan," says Art Weiss, CMF president.

John Heisner, a Coronado-based attorney and past master of Amity Lodge No. 442, is a willing recruit. CMF called Heisner last year to help start a council in San Diego.

Though Heisner, this year's grand orator, is an attorney and not a teacher, a vibrant public education system is important to him. He's written three books on Masonic symbolism and comes from a family of teachers. So when CMF asked him to spearhead one of the first councils last year, he did so with relish. He convened a group of 10 brothers who were equally passionate about the issue. They worked with local education leaders to hold events and award scholarships. He also reached out to lodges to make sure that all brothers who wanted to be involved in the initiative were.

"I'm absolutely confident that this plan will make enormous headway," he says. "I've been getting calls from as far away as Riverside from members who are passionate about public education and want to get involved."

The advisory councils are intended to set an example for the whole community, Masonic and non-Masonic. So eventually, the goal is for an outpouring of support to extend beyond the fraternity.

"We hope that, throughout California, our example will infuse a sense of community responsibility towards our system of public education," says Weiss.

The will of the brothers

Last year, CMF organized three public education advisory councils. This year, there will be a total of seven: Inland Empire (including Riverside), Alameda-Contra Costa County, San Francisco, Orange County, Santa Clara County, and the Pasadena-Glendale-Burbank area.

All told, some 50-70 California Masons will have a hand in these councils, which are the driving force behind CMF's public schools programs: Their important role is to help interview and recommend Investment in Success scholarship recipients in their areas, raise funds from area lodges to implement the Raising A Reader literacy initiative, and organize Public Schools Month kickoff events for their communities.

San Diego's council will be run this year by Randy Brill, past master of San Diego Lodge No. 35 and a former teacher. To Brill, the councils have two additional purposes, which come right back to community involvement: First, to raise the profile of Freemasonry as a strong supporter of public education. Second, to network with area school officials to make sure they're getting what they need.

Though these councils are forming with the support of CMF, they are stoutly borne of the will of the brothers, says Heisner.

"This is the fraternity's strategic plan," he says. "It was created by the fraternity, all with the goal of making a profound difference in public education, which is essential for a functioning democracy." To champion that great institution, California Masons are calling on communities. ✧

Turning the Page for Child Literacy

Early child literacy is one of the most urgent issues faced by today's public schools. Reading fluency by the end of third grade determines our ability to learn for the rest of our lives, and is closely associated with long-term career and professional success.

California currently ranks near the bottom in the United States for child literacy. In an effort to address this issue, the 2011-2012 Grand Master's Project initiates a bold new partnership with Raising A Reader, one of the largest and most successful literacy programs in the country.

Raising A Reader provides each child and family with 100 high-quality books a year. It also works with parents – including those for whom English is a second language – to build the language and literacy experiences at home that their child needs to succeed at school.

"The broader issue is getting kids excited about learning to read so that later, they can read to learn," explains Art Weiss, president of the California Masonic Foundation (CMF).

The fraternity's partnership with Raising A Reader will bring the program to kindergarteners in California's lowest-performing public schools, who are at the highest risk for educational failure.

Raising A Reader has already helped more than 800,000 children through programs outside the school system. The partnership with the Masons of California is the first statewide, organized effort to put Raising A Reader into public schools, addressing a critical need to build early literacy skills during the kindergarten years.

The goal is to provide Raising A Reader to 250 kindergarten classrooms, touching the lives of more than 6,000 at-risk children. To reach this goal, the fraternity needs the support of its members and lodges. To contribute, contact the Office of Philanthropy at davila@freemason.org or 415/292-9117.



WEB EXTRA

Contribute to the Grand Master's Project online. Just click on the Raising A Reader button on the home page of freemason.org.

BY THE NUMBERS

AS THE FIRST FULL YEAR UNDER CALIFORNIA MASONRY'S NEW STRATEGIC PLAN, 2011* WAS CHARACTERIZED BY OVERALL GROWTH AND EXTRAORDINARY LODGE ACCOMPLISHMENTS. HERE IT IS, AT A GLANCE.

**July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011*

| | | | |
|------|---|-------|----------------------------------|
| 332 | DEGREE-CONFERRING LODGES | 4,743 | TOTAL DEGREES CONFERRED |
| 38 | AVERAGE AGE OF NEW ENTERED APPRENTICE | 1,947 | ENTERED APPRENTICES INITIATED |
| 14.3 | AVERAGE NUMBER OF OVERALL DEGREES CONFERRED PER LODGE | 1,394 | FELLOW CRAFTS PASSED |
| 4.2 | AVERAGE NUMBER OF MASTER MASONS RAISED PER LODGE | 1,402 | MASTER MASONS RAISED |

I personally meet all visitors and spend time getting to know them and what drew them to Freemasonry. More importantly, I encourage other members, particularly officers, to do the same. We have been able to draw first-time visitors back and build many friendships.

|||||

ARMEN MARDIROUSI, MASTER, NORTH HOLLYWOOD NO. 542

Degree leaders

OVERALL DEGREES CONFERRED

1. South West No. 283: **82**
2. Saddleback Laguna No. 672: **77**
3. Temecula Catalina Island No. 524: **67**
4. Francis Drake No. 376: **57**
5. Atwater Larchmont Tila Pass No. 614: **56**

MASTER MASONS RAISED

1. South West No. 283: **11**
2. Francis Drake No. 376: **10**
3. Saddleback Laguna No. 672: **9**
3. Coronado No. 441: **9**
3. Mission No. 169: **9**

By leaps and bounds

These lodges had the greatest increase in degrees from 2010 to 2011:

1. North Hollywood No. 542: **Increased by 35**
2. Temecula Catalina Island No. 524: **Increased by 26**
3. Coronado No. 441: **Increased by 24**
4. Sunnyside No. 577: **Increased by 21**
5. Modesto No. 206: **Increased by 20**

Our past master has been a DeMolay father and several of our members were in DeMolay. Attending DeMolay events, picnics, and outings creates a sense of camaraderie – and a larger feeling of brotherhood and community within the lodge.

JOSE MERTON, MASTER, SUNNYSIDE NO. 577

TECHNOLOGY

LODGES' TECH TOOLS EXCITE CURRENT MEMBERS AND ATTRACT NEW ONES

by Vanessa Richardson

The Internet, iPads, and other types of technology are everywhere these days – but not necessarily in Masonic lodges.

In their quest to improve the membership experience, two California lodges have recently embraced everything from Twitter feeds and Facebook pages to mobile alerts and online payments.

They've boosted membership levels, increased event attendance, and attracted interest from thousands of miles away.

Online revamping and redesign

Temecula Catalina Island Lodge No. 524, aka TemCat Lodge, has had a website for years – but according to Master Michael Coe, it wasn't increasing interest or attendance at events. In early 2008, the lodge hired an outside firm to revamp temeculamasons.org.

"But it still wasn't working for us," says Coe. "Luckily, we had a brother working in the technology field who volunteered to take over."

That volunteer was Steve Batiz. By day, Batiz – who's currently lodge marshal – designs websites for major U.S. government entities, including the White House and

the Navy. After six months of talking with brothers about their needs, he redesigned and relaunched the site. The result: In 2010, the website received 8,000 unique visitors. About 1,000 were individuals from some 90 other countries, from Argentina to Iceland, seeking information about Masonry.

"To Amazon, 8,000 visitors is nothing, but for a lodge website, that's pretty good," says Batiz.

Content is key

What's TemCat Lodge's technique? It's all about staying current, says Coe, who writes most of the website content.

"Particularly, it's an effort to keep the home page fresh, so I try to update it monthly," he says. Coe also pays attention to search engine optimization techniques, which improve the website's ranking in Google searches for *Masons* and *Freemasonry*.

The lodge uses Google Analytics to track website traffic and see which pages get the most views. Now the home page gets an average of 2.5 minutes per viewing.

"Brethren and new users tell us our site is very informative, easy to use, and also easy to find on the Web," says Coe.

Besides keeping content updated, keep your website simple, advises Batiz.

"The biggest flaws I see on other lodge websites are lack of a calendar and no 'Contact Us' form," he says. "At least have a calendar that lists when and where your meetings are, and how to contact you. That information is so helpful to the people trying to get a hold of you."

Easy-to-use tech tools

Soon after Batiz's website redesign, the lodge started using Facebook and Twitter. In particular, the Facebook page has been a great tool for setting up lodge events and sending invites and notices to members and the general public.

"We definitely get a lot more signups for events now," says Coe.

The lodge also uses technology tools to make lodge duties easier for brethren. Committee members use Google Docs to



WEB EXTRA

For a firsthand look at what makes the Temecula Catalina Island Lodge and Modesto Lodge websites so effective, visit temeculamasons.org and modestomasoniclodge.org.

share and edit documents online. The lodge offers PayPal as an online payment form for dues, to purchase life membership, and to make charitable contributions.

Temecula Catalina hasn't given up on older methods, though. It still sends out print Trestleboards, and it uses email, Google Calendar, and Evite as other sources of reminders and information.

"We use a variety of sources to get the word out," says Coe. As for the new Google Plus, the lodge is evaluating it now. "Anything new that comes along, we'll try it and if it's effective, we'll continue to use it," he says.

A new generation

Using these types of technology is a necessity for the lodge, says Coe.

"There's no question that the age and occupation of our brothers have had an impact. Our lodge members are getting younger. They want quick, easy access to Masonry, so that's what we try to provide," he says. "The Masons have a big drive to attract and retain younger members, so we have to cater to their needs and expectations."

TemCat Lodge's advice for getting up to speed on technology: Just do it.

"Many of these methods don't cost money, so you're not losing anything by trying them," says Coe. "Any free, effective tool you can use to communicate with brothers, there's no reason not to use it. Just start somewhere and get it going."

A passion for posting

Nicholas and Michael Kellner make a great team. Not only are they brothers (biological and Masonic), they're the dynamic duo that keeps the website for Modesto Lodge No. 206 up to speed, with the help of Brother Douglas Husted.

The lodge's website, modestomasoniclodge.org, got its start as one page with an address and phone number. No one had touched it for five years until Mike Kellner, a software engineer

and junior warden for the lodge, took over as the administrator and turned it into a WordPress blog. But he knew that wouldn't be enough to attract interest.

"You need someone who is good at writing and storytelling and who can document what you're doing," he says.

That's where Nick Kellner, a sixth-grade teacher and current master, enters the picture.

"Nick loves to write and take photos with his iPhone, so I encouraged him to take charge of the blog," says his brother. The first post was about an event Modesto Lodge cohosted with a neighboring lodge, complete with written details and photos. Since then, he has posted about upcoming events, documented past events, and even included photos of members' babies.

The blog serves a few purposes.

"For current members, it's to get them to see what they're missing out on at the lodge, and get them to the next event. For potential members, the goal is to demystify Masonry and show how we're a mainstream organization," Nick Kellner says.

The brothers' efforts are working. Stated meeting attendance has gone from about 20 members to more than 40, regularly packing the small lodge room.

While technology is helpful, the passion behind it is what's made it successful.

"You need to find people who are on fire to do Facebook, a blog, or Twitter," says Nick Kellner. "If there's no ownership, it's not happening. This is seriously a labor of love for us." ✧

BROTHER

ABOVE ALL ELSE

FOUR LODGES, ONE SECRET TO SUCCESS:
MAKING MEMBERS TOP PRIORITY

At 21 years old, J. Blaise Golightly was looking for a mentor. He had just graduated from UCLA, where he was president of his fraternity. For four years, that fraternity had given him a support network, a sense of belonging, and structure. But upon graduation, he was vaulted into life beyond college. He needed direction.

RS

by Laura Normand

→ A friend introduced him to Brother Jack Hennings, chaplain at Saddleback Laguna Lodge No. 672 in Lake Forest.

“From the moment I met Jack, he was a role model,” Golightly says. “The way he’s able to blend spirituality with just being happy, and weave lessons from Freemasonry into it. He represents a balanced lifestyle. And he has a very fatherly character that I was looking for coming out of college.”

Continued next page



It's been eight months. Golightly, now a Master Mason at Saddleback Laguna Lodge, has introduced many of his UCLA friends to the craft. He is also developing a Masonic education workshop to present to his lodge brothers. In it, he poses a series of questions to inspire self-reflection: *Am I living Masonry as I preach it? Am I really walking the walk, or am I just talking the talk?* As he explains it, the lodge has had such a powerful impact on his life, he wants to give back.

Like millions of men for centuries before him, Golightly has found a profound meaning in Masonry.

TOP PRIORITY

This type of transformative membership experience is becoming more and more common throughout the state. Among the reasons why is California Masonry's strategic plan for 2010-2015, announced a year ago. The first of the plan's five priority areas is a call to action for lodges to enhance the membership experience.

Here, we highlight four California lodges that responded – by adding programs, identifying member needs, and facilitating positive experiences like Golightly's.

Every single lodge cites fellowship, friendship, and family (and, as an honorable mention, food). They all have strong coaching programs, which demand both a philosophical and applied understanding of Masonic lessons. They all talk about being open to new ideas, and challenging members – even prospects – to get involved.

And they all return, again and again, to the power of personal connections in shaping the membership experience.

Whether it's the bond between a candidate and his coach; the word of mouth that brings first one, then three, then nine new members into a lodge; or the simple enjoyment of a social hour among brothers, the secret to success is – as it always has been – in the members.

THE FRIDAY NIGHT SOCIETY



FRANCIS DRAKE NO. 376

NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS: In 2011, raised 10 Master Masons and conferred 57 degrees overall

TAKEAWAY: Create a social atmosphere to engage families and new members

On his drive home from Francis Drake Lodge No. 376 after one stated meeting, Master James Tandy turned to his wife and asked how her evening with the lodge ladies had gone. He still chuckles at her answer.

“She said, ‘Oh, we put on country music and started line dancing,’” he recalls. “While we’re meeting, our ladies are always hanging out and having fun. I don’t even know what they’re doing half the time!”

These sorts of impromptu family events have become the norm at the lodge. On stated meeting nights, at least 10 ladies stay after the dinner crowd clears to teach each other crafts, watch movies, and – as Tandy recently discovered – dance. At the same time, lodge kids may watch a Disney movie. That’s the kind of social, familial environment that Tandy prides his South San Francisco lodge on.

“This year, we’ve been focused on being all-inclusive. We want the families involved,” he says.

Tandy says that smart scheduling contributes to their social atmosphere. The lodge is open for stated meeting or a degree almost every Friday night of the month.

“Friday night is a good night for Masonry,” Tandy says. “Most of us don’t have to work the next day, so we’re not worried about getting home early. People usually stick around after the meeting to hang out. It’s been an advantage. We have a lot of youngsters coming in, and a lot of affiliations from other lodges.”

Every Wednesday night, the lodge is open to candidates and officers brushing up on ritual. The smaller crowd allows for more meaningful interactions, and candidates bond over shared degree work.

“These are educational nights, of course, but they’re social nights, too,” says Tandy.

Welcome Wagon

Before you can get into Saddleback Laguna Lodge, you have to go through Richard Vogel.

Vogel, 78, is the gregarious lodge tiler, with a reputation as the “Johnny Carson” of Saddleback Laguna Lodge. Ask any recent prospect, and you’ll hear that Vogel played a leading role in his introduction to Masonry.

When Vogel took over the tiler position, he also transformed it. With a background as a marriage/family therapist, he’s gifted at putting newcomers at ease and engaging them right away in meaningful conversation. He takes it upon himself to be available to dole out information to prospects, but just as importantly, talk at length with them about Freemasonry and what they hope to get out of it.

Once a prospect has submitted his application, Vogel interviews him at length so he can point him towards lodge brothers with shared interests. (The first time Vogel polled the lodge, he found that – unbeknownst to each other – six members were avid scuba divers.)

As if that weren’t enough, Vogel also hosts dinners at his home for candidates and their wives or significant others.

This is all part of the lodge’s efforts to enhance the new member experience. To ensure that the good work continues, Master Gary Silverman has worked with Vogel to create a sort of “job description” for the tiler. The description includes the following responsibility: *Establish a lasting impression of brotherhood.*

Thanks to its reputation for being social and welcoming, the lodge has been growing steadily the past few years, mostly by word-of-mouth. As brothers bring friends – including members of other lodges – and they bring *their* friends, the growth has accelerated. A few years ago, the lodge struggled to fill all of its spots for degree ritual. Now, they are three men deep for many parts.

Continued next page

In line with the strategic priority to enhance the member experience, Tandy and the lodge are focused on ensuring that no matter how many new members come through the door, they feel a sense of togetherness.

“Our greatest key to success has been that people come to the lodge and they see teamwork,” Tandy says. “We get a lot of participation, even from prospects. Guys who aren’t ready for an application come and help out in the kitchen. Our past masters are very involved. It’s a whole lodge effort.”



A ROCK-AND-ROLLER WALKS INTO A LODGE...



SANTA MONICA-PALISADES NO. 307

NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS: In 2011, raised 11 Master Masons and conferred 32 degrees overall

TAKEAWAY: Stay open to new ideas

When a 47-year old Harris Maslin walked into Santa Monica-Palisades Lodge for the first time, it was with the long hair and rough appearance of a rocker in the music business. He also happened to be the youngest guy in the building.

“But when I came into that first fellowship meeting, the members were so overwhelmingly nice to me. They were so accepting of who I was,” Maslin recalls. “I said to myself, there’s something special going on here.”

In the 15 years since, as the lodge membership has grown and diversified (currently, most active members are in their mid-20s to mid-40s), that open-mindedness has helped it thrive. Today, the lodge considers itself progressive. In fact, when the fraternity’s 2010-2015 strategic plan was announced, they recognized many of their existing priorities in it.

But they aren’t resting on their laurels. According to Maslin, now secretary and a past master, the lodge continues to re-evaluate what works for its members.

Like many lodges throughout the state, Santa Monica-Palisades Lodge has latched onto coaching as a key to the member experience. The lodge offers two standing days a week for coaching, Saturday morning and Wednesday evening.

We’re open and willing to make changes, and that’s the most important thing.

|||||
HARRIS MASLIN



Over years of trial and error, they’ve discovered that their candidates learn best in group “breakout sessions” for each of the three degrees.

In recent years, the lodge has begun offering childcare at major events to encourage family involvement. They’ve modernized their communications methods, including starting a Facebook page (at print time, it boasted 841 fans) and launching a Yahoo group for lodge members only, as a private source of social media.

When Maslin first joined the lodge, he remembers bringing a laptop into lodge – a foreign object, to many of his brothers – and asking permission to build a lodge website.

“The members didn’t know the first thing about the Internet, but they were open-minded, and they trusted me,” Maslin says. “And as soon as we put that website up, things started to change. We started noticing more hits, and then phone calls started coming in.”

“We’re open and willing to make changes, and that’s the important thing,” he says.

HITTING THE ROAD, WORKING UP A SWEAT

206

MODESTO NO. 206

NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS: Between 2010 and 2011, increased overall degree conferrals by 20

TAKEAWAY: Find ways to build a lodge identity

Every lodge has a unique personality. If Modesto Lodge were to describe theirs, the key ingredients would be sweat, charity, and field trips.

Over the past year, Master Nicholas Kellner has made it a priority to get his members out of their Modesto building and into other California lodges. The regular trips to area lodges serve a few purposes. First and foremost, Kellner says, they represent the symbolic use of the trowel: spreading the cement

of Masonry beyond the lodge. As a residual effect, Modesto brothers have hosted a landslide of return visits from other lodges.

But there’s another reason, one which plays into the lodge’s ongoing efforts to enhance its membership experience: The carpools across California are an exercise in team-building.

“You’re united. You start to feel closer,” Kellner says. Arriving at a new lodge together has helped build an identity among Modesto Lodge brethren, he explains.

Last year the lodge experienced a major jump in membership numbers, conferring 20 more degrees than in 2010. These

Continued next page



Life After College

California lodges are welcoming rising numbers of applications from recent college graduates. In most cases, it's no coincidence that these young men have turned to Masonry during a transitional time in their lives. And they're approaching lodges with a sincere desire to learn, contribute, and perhaps most of all, belong.

Last spring, J. Blaise Golightly, 21, graduated from UCLA. Soon after, he found Saddleback Laguna Lodge. He's since introduced many of his college friends to the fraternity, resulting in about five applications in four months.

"We see Masonry as a big resource in moving past college, and into a longer perspective on life," he says.

Golightly values the chance to talk to older brothers about everything from their career experiences to relationship advice, and simply, how to be a good person.

"These guys that are living by example, they all embody that complete package. It gives me something to strive for," Golightly says.

"In college you're part of all these activities and groups and clubs to keep learning more, but you don't have anything that pulls it all together," he adds. "Freemasonry pulls so many different elements of life together. That's what attracts me to it."

Golightly is the first person he knows of in his family to become a Mason. His parents are fully supportive.

"I'm telling them how these older guys are helping me out and checking in on me. They appreciate that there are people looking out for me in my daily life," he says.

He might be the first Mason in his family, but it seems he won't be the last.

"My brother recently visited the lodge and is going to turn in his application when he finishes his hockey season next spring," Golightly reports. "He's excited to have that same team form, in a more spiritual aspect."

team-building activities are an important way to make new members feel part of the lodge.

Road trips aren't Kellner's only team-building secret.

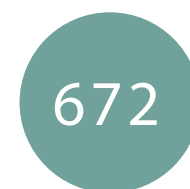
"Think of an event that has some sweat in it," Kellner advises. "For example, we have service days, like spreading bark for a school playground. You don't feel like it's charity unless you put in some hard work. It's important to bring you together."

The lodge has also honed in on ritual to build "lodge spirit." Kellner says that the lodge is making it a top priority to aspire to perfection in the ritual.

"That's what people judge you on. It's the first step for member attraction," Kellner says. "And our members feel good about it."

As a final point, the lodge has improved member communications in recent years. Today, they blend old-fashioned sensibilities with new technology to engage all Modesto Lodge members, new and veteran. Among their tools? Social media, text messaging, direct phone calls, and a website/blog to plug past and future events. (For more on the Modesto Lodge blog, see Lodge Spotlight, page 8.)

BREAKING THE MOLD



SADDLEBACK LAGUNA NO. 672

NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS: In 2011, initiated 23 Entered Apprentices and conferred 77 degrees overall

TAKEAWAY: Tailor the membership experience to each individual

About seven months ago, Matthew Harrison came across yet another historical account of prominent Freemasons during the American Revolution. He decided it was time to find out what, exactly, the fraternity was all about. The Grand Lodge website directed him to Saddleback Laguna Lodge, and he plugged in his info, assuming it'd be the first of many online introductions. The next day, he got a call from Master Gary Silverman.

“For him to take the time out of his day to call me, and find out what *I* wanted to get out of Masonry – not just to improve their membership rolls – right away I felt welcome, and excited,” Harrison says.

Harrison attended dinner at the lodge that Thursday. Upon his arrival, he met Chaplain Jack Hennings in the parking lot, and “It was like we were long-lost friends,” he recalls.

Masonry is not a cookie cutter. The way it works from one person to another is totally different. What is education? It is not necessarily someone standing and talking. It is however you learn.

ERIC HANAN

A few months later, then an Entered Apprentice himself, he gave the Entered Apprentice charge at lodge.

It's a familiar formula for most new members at Saddleback Laguna Lodge: an immediate sense of belonging, easy connections with lodge brothers, and early opportunities to participate.

Eric Hanan, senior warden, says one key is Masonic education. The lodge has created their own semiannual coaching workshop, which every new coach is required to attend. They've also developed a Masonic education program called 3, 5, 7: Brothers at all membership levels give three-, five-, or seven-minute presentations on an aspect of Masonic education and how it applies to their lives.

“When they're preparing and giving their presentations, they are so much more interested in the lodge,” Hanan says. “They're no longer spectators. They are involved.”

As of late, Saddleback Laguna Lodge has been welcoming Generation X and Y in droves, and the new programs are partly in response to the younger men's needs. The lodge has also made its investigation process more thorough. Hanan makes a point to interview every new candidate for about an hour, then

matches him to the coach with the most complimentary teaching style.

“Masonry is not a cookie cutter. The way it works from one person to another is totally different,” Hanan says. “What is education? It is not necessarily someone standing and talking. It is however you learn.”

Hanan says this bond between the candidate and coach has transformed the membership experience for many new brothers: “They have an anchor; someone to rely on,” he says.

The lodge has created other opportunities for members to form lasting bonds. Recently, the brethren have thrown themselves into a sweeping lodge beautification project, led by Hennings' wife, an interior designer. The lodge members do most of the work: They started in the dining room, then the foyer, and soon, will tackle the lodge room. In doing so, they've found a way to contribute and feel ownership in their lodge.

“The guys are very proud of the lodge now,” says Hennings. “It's like we're kids, and it's our fort. It's *ours*.”

This attention to the individual is part of Saddleback Laguna Lodge's focus on the quality – not quantity – of lodge membership. And as a result, the lodge is thriving.

“The most important work of the lodge is its members,” Hanan says. “Not the walls, not the books. The dust will take over the books if no one reads them. The walls will crumble if no one takes care of them. You've got to take care of your members.” ♦

HOW DOES YOUR GARDEN GROW?

IN FREEMASONRY, WE FIND THE BEAUTY OF LIFE ITSELF

by John L. Cooper III, Senior Grand Warden

In some respects, Freemasonry is like a beautiful garden. A garden is a living entity that brings beauty to the eye of the beholder. Some gardens are formal, with flower beds laid out with regularity, and whose charm lies in the order and symmetry thus displayed. Some gardens are informal, looking as if God had cast seeds to the earth in random order, but whose composite beauty when in bloom defies description. Freemasonry is like such a garden – or rather, like a constellation of gardens, all presenting a different aspect to the eye of the beholder.

As with a formal garden, there are aspects of our fraternity that we cherish which are formal in nature. Our degrees, conferred with exactness of word and ceremony, convey the timeless lessons that all Masons learn as they pass through them. Our meetings impose the formality of respect for the presiding officer, and through him, respect for all brethren present. We have the ancient teachings of Freemasonry enshrined in our lectures, which convey timeless truths to each generation.

But Freemasonry also shares the exuberance of the wilder garden, where color and shape run riot. There is friendship, which knows no bounds of formality, but which spills over into a cascade of good deeds, done without hope of fee or reward. There is brotherly love, which constrains not only our relationships with one another, but inspires our commitment to our families, friends, and neighbors. It fills our idle hours with pleasure, and undergirds and supports our busier hours as wage earner, citizen, and perhaps, as husband and father. We find in Freemasonry a deep sense of the beauty of life itself, and our ancient and honorable institution becomes the source of great personal satisfaction as the years roll by.

To ask a Mason why he is a Mason is analogous to asking a gardener why he gardens. A gardener finds in his garden a sense of order and beauty, and an expectation of the unanticipated that only the Master Gardener can bring into being. Similarly, a Mason finds in his fraternity the peace and serenity of sincere friendship and brotherhood, a sense of order and harmony as set forth in the principles of Freemasonry, and the surprise of joy when Freemasonry opens to him a vista that he never knew existed. To explain why membership in this ancient brotherhood is so valuable to a Mason is easy. Just look around. ✧



CULTURAL EXCHANGE

NOTES ON THE MEMBER EXPERIENCE BEYOND OUR BORDERS

by Heather Boerner

The Masonic teachings of brotherhood, philanthropy, and morality are consistent no matter where you go in the world. But that doesn't mean that all jurisdictions and lodges are alike.

From the type of rituals brothers practice to the varied regalia worn (or not worn), it's clear that the member experience depends on where one is raised. And when it comes to getting the most out of membership, those differences can be as instructive as they are foreign. Here are a few culture contrasts from around the globe.

The new member experience

Take, for instance, the path to the craft. In Australia, some brothers find the craft through advertisements in newspapers. In parts of Europe, the waiting list for becoming an Entered Apprentice can extend for years and, even then, only about half of applicants are accepted.

In continental Europe, candidates write and submit papers as proof of their knowledge of Freemasonry before they're allowed to advance through the degrees. A similar system exists in Latin America. However, in the nearby United Kingdom, no papers are

presented, and candidates have minimal work to memorize. The degrees are conferred about as quickly as in the United States, and the new member is quickly integrated into the much-documented "dining culture" of U.K. lodges.

Lodge rituals and culture

Upon entering a lodge in Singapore, India, or Hong Kong, one is likely to find several volumes of sacred texts on the altar, representing the varied religions espoused by the multi-ethnic fraternity.

In German lodges, business as usual looks quite different from that of a U.S. lodge. There, brothers enter the lodge in two columns, locked arm in arm, and leave in silence after the solemn conferring of the third degree. Many lodges prominently display the bone box – a symbol of a coffin on a floor cloth. German lodges also practice an ancient ritual called the Chain of Unions, a reference to the chains that held the walls in place in Saint Solomon's Temple. For that ritual, brothers form a circle in the center of the lodge, locked arm in arm.

At lodges in the Philippines, festive boards don't include any official toasts, though a few addresses may be made. And unlike many brothers around the world, the typical dress code includes the barong, a nearly translucent long-sleeve shirt with intricate, colorful embroidery.

Meanwhile, in Scotland, some brothers don lodge-specific tartans and use an eclectic ritual that combines many different traditions into one.

Masonry in the public eye

In most of Europe, symbols of the craft – a belt buckle with the square and compass on it, for instance – are not typically worn, but in Scotland, Masons display such symbols with pride. They also are fond of announcing their forthcoming meetings in local newspapers. Their openness, mirth, and pride in brotherhood

Continued on page 22



AROUND THE WORLD

makes their jurisdiction stand out. That, and the lodge tartans donned by some brothers.

In Saudi Arabia, where the law bans Freemasonry, lodges meet in secret and officers run the risk of arrest. Lodges in Iraq, Yemen, and elsewhere on the Arabian Peninsula have disappeared as officials grew suspicious of the fraternity. But just

miles away in Israel, Masons can meet in marked lodges on main streets in Tel Aviv.

The same is true in Asia. While the brotherhood has been all but driven underground in Pakistan, there are easily identifiable Masonic halls in every major city in India. India is also one of the few Asian countries to operate its own grand lodge.

So in the end, the member experience reflects the culture of the lodge, and often, the culture of the country in which that lodge meets. The dress, the rituals, even which sacred text graces the altar – all these things are windows into how the fraternity has changed and adapted across the globe. ✧



FAN FAVORITE

Hugh Tidwell

I communicate frequently with different people who are doing different things with their lodges. This not only gives me ideas but also allows me to know what may or may not work for our lodge.

Henry Hermosilla Hebron

I was able to connect with brothers who I lost contact with many years ago.

Fernand Ducci

Spreading the light that much faster, so much brighter.

Roland Ros

A great platform for brothers to communicate, share thoughts, pictures, and quickly get the word out, without having to sift through a bunch of emails.

Kristy Howard-Clark

I reconnected with people that I grew up with in the Masonic Home of Georgia for Children... I get to connect with Masonic family all over the country.

Sean R. Bailey

We have seen more traveling Masons since we fired up a fan page.

WHY FACEBOOK IS A VALUABLE PART OF THE MEMBERSHIP EXPERIENCE

It's been two years since the Grand Lodge of California launched the official Facebook page for the Masons of California. Today, the page has a fan base of more than 8,000 members and friends of the fraternity. Several lodges have Facebook pages as well.

We asked our fans how Facebook has enhanced their Masonic experience. Here's a sample of what you said.

Dave Goodman

San Dimas Lodge FB page has helped spread the light and let the community know we are there.

Southland Masonic Lodge #256

We've made a lot of connections with brothers who would not have known we were even around, and... with others who just have an interest in Masonry.

Steven Gierhahn

It allows me to connect with brothers from all over the world that I may have never been able to meet personally.

QUEST FOR THE FOUNTAIN OF HEALTH

OUR SENIOR COMMUNITIES STRIDE TOWARDS ONE OF THE FRATERNITY'S STRATEGIC PRIORITIES: ADVANCING THE FIELD OF CARE-GIVING

by Laura Normand

The first time her friend asked her to participate in the Walk to Wellness challenge, the resident said no. Asked a second time, she still declined. But her friend, a staff member from the Masonic Home's dining services team, persisted. When the friend called back a third time, she gave in. "All right," she said reluctantly. "I'll do your challenge."

The Walk to Wellness challenge, which took place in May, pitted a team of residents and staff from the Masonic Home at Union City and Acacia Creek against 44 communities throughout the U.S.

"You'd see people bump into each other in the hallway and pull their pedometers out to compare steps," recalls Penny Vittoria, lifestyle coordinator at the Union City Home and Acacia Creek.

Sometime in the midst of all this hustle and bustle, the reluctant resident approached Vittoria and admitted she'd been wrong. The Acacia Creek and Masonic Home at Union City team went on to win first place in the nation.

A new philosophy of care had arrived.



IN MAY, UNION CITY STAFF AND RESIDENTS BROKE FROM BUSINESS AS USUAL FOR THEIR FIRST SENIOR GAMES DAY. ABOVE: RESIDENT HAROLD HARRISON AND LIFESTYLE COORDINATOR PENNY VITTORIA.

Great expectations

The Masonic Homes and Acacia Creek introduced a "successful aging" philosophy of care in February 2011, part of the fraternity's strategic priority to significantly advance the field of care giving.

It's a philosophy based on a 10-year study by the MacArthur Foundation, which shattered old stereotypes about aging. As the study discovered, aging can be a time of growth. It comes down to the choices we make every day.

"It's important to create and nurture expectations in every stage of life," says Dixie Reeve, executive director and administrator of the Masonic Home at Union City. "People think that seniors have earned retirement; that they deserve to relax. But really, seniors need inspiration to keep growing, too. The desire to achieve something with one's life is the desire to live."



“Successful aging is a way to look at your life and assess the areas where you can grow,” adds Vittoria. The philosophy addresses four components of wellness: physical, intellectual, social, and spiritual health.

Put me in, coach!

Vittoria was brought on board in February, shortly after the philosophy was launched at the Homes. She describes herself as a coach: “The residents tell me their goals. I give them options to achieve them, whether it’s a class on fall prevention or a social event.”

Vittoria also encourages a main point of the philosophy: Try something new.

Now, once a week, residents of Acacia Creek and the Union City Home meet with Vittoria to brainstorm new strategies. The idea is to stimulate the four components of successful aging, which means everything from Walk to Wellness to a Scrabble tournament to a resident-led drumming circle. Theme months have been introduced, including Wedding Month, featuring activities such as the Not-So-Newlywed Game.

At one resident’s suggestion, Union City will create a mural in its auditorium – conceived, designed, and painted by residents. The name tags sported by staffers are now produced by a resident, who pointed out that he could make them in-house with his woodworking materials. Residents lead art classes and water aerobics classes. And in May, the communities held Senior Games Day. Resident Rose Monroe, age 91, was one of several staffers and residents who tackled the rock climbing wall.

Evolving, again

Previously, the Homes’ philosophy of care was a promise with the best intentions: We will take care of you. But recent research has shifted expectations about aging. As it turns out, the best way to care for others – at any stage of life – is to support their initiative to care for themselves.

It’s not the first time the Masonic Homes of California has adapted to the times. In the 1800s, “relief” meant caring for orphans and widows in the aftermath of cholera outbreaks. By the late 20th century, it had evolved to provide multiple levels of care for senior residents.

Continued next page



SENIOR GAMES DAY WAS DESIGNED TO STIMULATE THE FOUR COMPONENTS OF SUCCESSFUL AGING. ABOVE: RESIDENT WILMA GRICE.



THE SUCCESSFUL AGING PHILOSOPHY MAINTAINS THAT AGING CAN BE A TIME OF GROWTH. JUST ASK RESIDENT ORAN FLETCHER, WHO TACKLED THE ROCK WALL ON SENIOR GAMES DAY.

With its new philosophy of care, the Masonic Homes is evolving once more to meet member needs, now and into the future.

Residents walk the walk

The philosophy is one that many Homes' residents are already living.

Rose Monroe obtained her masters in clinical psychology at age 75, and now volunteers in nearby Fremont as a peer counselor. She drives to church in the town of Niles. At the Home, she writes for the monthly newsletter, has spearheaded resident-led grief support groups, and at age 91, climbed the rock wall at Senior Games.

“When people hear I’m living in our senior community, they assume that I need help getting up from my chair,” she says. “I can get up from my chair 21 times – because I’m practicing.”

At the Covina campus, Eugene Sloyer, president of the resident council, knows a thing or two about staying active despite setbacks.

When he arrived at the Covina community three years ago, he had been diagnosed for more than a decade with late onset muscular dystrophy. But the community’s physician wasn’t ready to accept the diagnosis. After seeing a series of specialists, Sloyer was told that he’d been misdiagnosed – and, even better, he was a candidate for knee replacement surgery. He’s since had both knees replaced, and began walking again in record time.

“When I came to Covina I used an electric scooter,” he says. “Now, I use it for a doorstep.”

Virginia Nash is one of Sloyer’s peers on the resident council. She’s both council vice chairperson and secretary, among other volunteer activities (a recent addition: caretaker for resident cat Callie), and values the fact that residents have a say in practically everything at the community.

In true successful-aging style, Nash wakes each day determined to make the most of the hours ahead of her.

“We ought to strive to be as active as possible, so when we go to bed we can say, ‘Gee, that was a great day,’” she says. “God gave us this life. Now for heaven’s sakes, make the best of it.”

Jump in, the rock wall’s fine

In less than a year, the new philosophy at Union City, Covina, and Acacia Creek is already changing business as usual.



EVERY WEEK, RESIDENTS AND STAFF MEET TO BRAINSTORM EVENTS PROMOTING PHYSICAL, SPIRITUAL, INTELLECTUAL, AND SOCIAL HEALTH. ABOVE: RESIDENT DORIS WONG.

In the past, the staff was responsible for bringing less mobile residents to events. Now, other residents often volunteer to bring them. A long-term goal on campus is to reduce the number of walkers, and residents are gearing up for balance classes.

As lifestyle coordinator, Vittoria has witnessed the ripple effect of such changes; in particular, opening up resident events to staff.

“At the Senior Games, a group of housekeepers came down and sat on the periphery to watch. The next thing you know, they joined in, were climbing the rock wall, being with the residents and really coming together as a community,” Vittoria recalls. “We all connect to people in different ways. The more that staff members make those connections, the more it enhances everybody’s life.”

A new way to age

Long before she moved to the Union City campus, Monroe sought out balance and purpose in her life. At age 91, she believes she’s found a community that shares those priorities.

“I truly admire Masonry, and I am astounded by the Masonic Homes,” Monroe says. “They allow you to be active and have

the freedom to be yourself. It is one of the outstanding forms of giving, at the time of life when you really need the gift.”

Monroe was on a special steering committee, which introduced residents and staff to the new philosophy of care. Acacia Creek resident Wilma Grice – another perpetual go-getter – was, too. Although Grice was already living a very active life, the new philosophy has reinforced her beliefs about aging.

“Until I learned them, I didn’t consciously focus on the four components of aging successfully – physical, spiritual, intellectual, social – in relation to a healthy lifestyle. I certainly do now,” Grice says. “They have gradually become a way of life for me.”

“I am 77 and still very active. I learned that I can be 97 and still be just as active,” she says.

She pauses, then adds: “There is no Fountain of Youth, but there can be a fountain of health.” ✨

RESIDENT VOLUNTEERS HELPED INTRODUCE THE PHILOSOPHY IN FEBRUARY. TEN MONTHS LATER, THERE IS A NOTICEABLE CULTURE SHIFT. BELOW: RESIDENT LEONARD SMITH.



Connecting with Masonic Assistance

MASONIC SENIOR OUTREACH

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

These services include:

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

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

MASONIC FAMILY OUTREACH

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

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

MASONIC CENTER FOR YOUTH AND FAMILIES

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

ACACIA CREEK

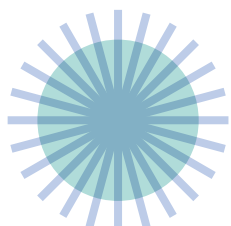
To learn more about Acacia Creek, our new senior living community in Union City, visit acaciacreek.org or call 877/902-7555.

STAY INFORMED

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

VISIT THE HOMES

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



MASONIC ASSISTANCE

FRATERNAL CARE BASED ON MASONIC VALUES

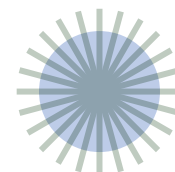
We support and serve the whole family

- Masonic Homes of California
- Masonic Family Outreach
- Masonic Senior Outreach

- Masonic Center for Youth and Families

MYCAF welcomes Nicole Ho, MFTI. Nicole will provide marriage and family support services. For more information, please contact Nicole at nho@mcyaf.org.

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



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NORTHERN RETREAT

January 27-29, Pleasanton

SOUTHERN RETREAT

February 24-26, Newport Beach

MASTERS AND WARDENS

NORTHERN RETREATS

March 9-11, San Ramon

April 20-22, Sacramento

SOUTHERN RETREATS

March 23-25, Newport Beach

May 4-6, Ontario

Retreats are two and a half days, held over a weekend.
Please register online at freemason.org » Member Center » Masonic Education
Contact Program Manager Kim Hegg at 415/292-9111 with any questions.



2011-2012 GRAND LODGE OFFICERS



FIRST ROW LEFT TO RIGHT:

Jack M. Rose, Grand Lecturer
M. William Holsinger, PGM, Grand Treasurer
John F. Lowe, Deputy Grand Master
Frank Loui, Grand Master
John L. Cooper III, Senior Grand Warden
Russell E. Charvonja, Junior Grand Warden
Allan L. Casalou, Grand Secretary

SECOND ROW LEFT TO RIGHT:

Franklin R. Lee, AGL Division VIII
Joseph H. Ross, Grand Chaplain
Laurence F. Hawthorne Sr., Grand Bible Bearer
Allen S. Weisser, Grand Marshal
Bruce R. Galloway, AGL Division II
Stephen R. Miller, Grand Organist
Douglas B. Eichen, AGL Division X
Cline C. Jack Jr., AGL Division VI
Donald R. Taylor Sr., Grand Tiler
Romeo G. De Lumen, Grand Standard Bearer
Christopher A. Putnam, Assistant Grand Organist
Raymond D. Godeke, Grand Pursuivant
Arthur Porter, Assistant Grand Tiler

THIRD ROW LEFT TO RIGHT:

Lynn R. Wallingford, AGL Division V
John R. Heisner, Grand Orator
Charles M. Jeronimo, AGL Division III
Ara Maloyan, Grand Sword Bearer
M. David Perry, AGL Division I
James A. Kurupas, AGL Division IX
Ricky L. Lawler, AGL Division IV
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Mario A. Balbiani, Senior Grand Deacon