

OCTOBER / NOVEMBER 2010



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FREEMASON



10.1 2 3 4.15
MASONRY FOR THE NEXT DECADE

***“I joined Masonry
to make a difference.***

**I WANTED TO BE
PART OF SOMETHING
BIGGER.”**

P.12

WEB EXTRA

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Masonry for the Next Decade

Last spring, members, families, and communities shared their visions for the future of California Masonry. From those ideas and feedback, the fraternity's strategic plan for 2010-15 is taking shape. The three-word version? Engage, educate, excel. Find out more with this special guide to the plan objectives, changes to expect in the next five years, and what it means to members like you.



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EXECUTIVE MESSAGE

William J. Bray III, Grand Master



New Year's Resolutions

My brothers, welcome to the start of a new Grand Lodge year. It's an exciting time of year for the fraternity. It's a time for reflection on the past and dreams for the future. My theme as grand master is "The past is our heritage. The present is our responsibility. The future is our obligation." As we stand at the crossroads between a year past and a year that's just begun, I think that message is especially powerful.

We have so much to be proud of this past year. It is my privilege to build on the great work begun by Past Grand Master Kenneth G. Nagel, and all grand masters before him. In particular, I plan to continue the work begun in the Coming Home campaign. I want to continue to make it a fraternity-wide focus to bring members back to blue lodge.

I believe the idea of "New Year's resolutions" is inspiring when applied to the extraordinary group of men in California Masonry. Every year, we step back and imagine who we want to be at this time next year. When we make a New Year's resolution, we aren't tackling it alone. In fact, all 60,000 of us are united by it. The bonds of our fellowship are stronger for it.

In Freemasonry, we see the big picture, and we work towards huge goals – becoming better men, discovering the truth, making the world a better place. Those goals can be daunting. It can be difficult to know where to start, or how to pick up where you left off. So together, in the next strategic plan for the fraternity, we've broken them down.

I believe the 2010-15 Strategic Plan is a smart, measurable way of working towards a better future. It is ambitious and values-driven, just like Masonry. To me, the most special part is that we came up with it together.

We have our work cut out for us. But as Masons, if we appreciate one thing, it's that the journey is as important as the destination. Through our devotion to meaningful projects, through the lessons we learn as we strive towards their fruition, we become better men.

I have another goal, a personal one, which I'd like to share with you. Linda and I know how difficult cancer is, for the person diagnosed with it but also for his or her loved ones. We have experienced it in our family, as I'm sure many of you have in yours. A diagnosis of cancer holds months or years or a lifetime of battling, for the whole family.

My Grand Master's Project, By Your Side, is dedicated to those families in California, and the health care professionals by their side. Building on our partnership with the Association of California Nurse Leaders, we will fund educational resources for more California nurses to become certified nurse oncologists. Certified nurse oncologists are invaluable in the fight against cancer; their presence and expertise provides encouragement and support to patients and families. With more of these specialists in every hospital, clinic, and medical care center, we will help provide comfort and hope for thousands of patients and their loved ones.

I hope you'll join me in support of my Grand Master's Project and the 2010-15 Strategic Plan. The history of Freemasonry proves that, together, we can do incredible things. I'm honored to lead you into this year, and all of the meaningful work it holds. ✧

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Allan L. Casalou, Grand Secretary



The New *California Freemason*

Welcome to your redesigned *California Freemason* magazine.

One of the things that California Masonry does very well is adapt to the times. This magazine is proof of that. We've come a long way since 1954, the year we first introduced *California Freemason*, and 2002, when we tackled our first redesign. We decided it was time for another round.

We wanted the new design to strike a chord with all of our members – no small challenge, considering California Masons are age 18 to 103, from a broad range of cultures and lifestyles. To make things even more interesting, we wanted a look that balanced modern with traditional. We wanted something dynamic and thought-provoking, to create an immediate connection with readers. Finally, we wanted more quantity *and* quality: more pages for longer articles; smart design to make them sing.

We told Chen Design Associates all of these things, and they heard us. The new design is balanced, intelligent, streamlined, and contemporary. We've added eight pages. We've added more white space on every page, creating more breathing room, and guiding your eye through the magazine. With this sleeker look, you'll understand the content better and have an easier time choosing what to focus on. We selected highly readable typefaces and color palettes, so every word is accessible to every reader. We're even trying to push the envelope a little bit with design choices that make you stop and think, such as the silhouetted-out image of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial, which accompanies John Cooper's article on page 10.

Our hope? When you're choosing a magazine from your coffee table, we want *California Freemason* to be neck-and-neck with your favorite popular magazine. We hope it's a keepsake; something you hang onto and share with family and friends.

All of these big ideas boil down to a greater goal, which you asked for during the strategic planning process: Enhance the member experience. This magazine is part of the member experience, and we see the new design as an opportunity to enhance it.

This magazine is also where we'll document how our fraternity changes over the next five years, as we pursue the strategic plan. After all, *California Freemason* is a place for us to share current news about the fraternity, as well as celebrate and learn more about our history.

To me, though, the greatest value of this magazine is that it connects all of us, from Redding to El Cajon, to our members who live on the East coast and in other countries. It comes into all of our homes and offers a common view of the fraternity.

We become Masons to belong to something greater than ourselves. I hope when you read *California Freemason*, you feel part of something great. ✧



What do you think of the new design? Share your feedback on the Masons of California Facebook page. Go to the Discussions tab to join the conversation.

BY THE NUMBERS

CALIFORNIA MASONRY
HAD ANOTHER RECORD-
BREAKING YEAR IN 2010*.
HERE IT IS, AT A GLANCE.

**July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010*

335

BLUE LODGES IN CALIFORNIA

2,090

ENTERED APPRENTICES INITIATED

1,464

FELLOW CRAFTS PASSED

1,370

MASTER MASONS RAISED

4,924

TOTAL DEGREES CONFERRED

14.7

AVERAGE NUMBER OF OVERALL
DEGREES CONFERRED PER LODGE
BEST AVERAGE IN 33 YEARS

4.1

AVERAGE NUMBER OF MASTER
MASONS RAISED PER LODGE
BEST AVERAGE IN 30 YEARS

39

AVERAGE AGE OF NEW
ENTERED APPRENTICE

69

NUMBER OF DEGREES CONFERRED
BY SOUTH WEST LODGE NO. 283
THE MOST OF ALL CALIFORNIA LODGES

19

NUMBER OF MASTER MASONS RAISED
BY HOME LODGE NO. 721 AND SOUTH
WEST LODGE NO. 283
TIED FOR FIRST IN THE JURISDICTION

We engage the new member instantly, and make sure his family knows that they belong to a fraternity that will support them for life. We are most proud of our many members who attend every lodge function. Our attendance has increased by 30 percent over the last couple of years.

STEVEN BASS, MASTER, SADDLEBACK LAGUNA NO. 672

Secrets to Success

SADDLEBACK LAGUNA LODGE AND
ANAHEIM LODGE SHARE THEIRS

- » Take time to meet families and ensure that they feel a sense of belonging, too
- » Assign coaches and mentors to encourage new members to participate in lodge functions
- » Create lodge programming that appeals to all members
- » Keep a list of Entered Apprentices, and follow up frequently with phone calls
- » Maintain a current, informative website
- » Respond to all phone calls, e-mails, and lodge inquiries promptly
- » Update the lodge's strategic plan regularly, and solicit member input
- » Focus on fun and fellowship
- » Establish a meaningful community service program

Degree Leaders

Entered Apprentices initiated

- 1 Saddleback Laguna No. 672: 31
- 1 South West No. 283: 31
- 2 Anaheim No. 207: 27
- 2 Orange Grove No. 293: 27

Fellow Crafts passed

- 1 Home No. 721: 23
- 2 South West No. 283: 19
- 3 Anaheim No. 207: 18
- 3 Orange Grove No. 293: 18

Master Masons raised

- 1 Home No. 721: 19
- 1 South West No. 283: 19
- 2 Orange Grove No. 293: 18
- 2 Saddleback Laguna No. 672: 18

By Leaps and Bounds

These lodges had the largest increase in degrees from 2009 to 2010

- » Magnolia Park No. 618: Increased by 26
- » Anaheim No. 207: Increased by 23
- » San Leandro No. 113: Increased by 22

PEAKS AND VALLEYS

THE HISTORICAL UPS AND DOWNS OF MASONIC MEMBERSHIP IN THE U.S.

by Cason Lane

Over the years, membership in Freemasonry has ebbed and flowed, often in step with major historical events. Here, we chronicle a few events that influenced U.S. membership from one generation to the next.

WEB EXTRA

For more U.S. Masonic history, read these scholarly papers from the 2010 California Masonic Symposium.

Check freemason.org for updates on the 2011 Symposium, which will examine the Morgan Affair.



The War of 1812

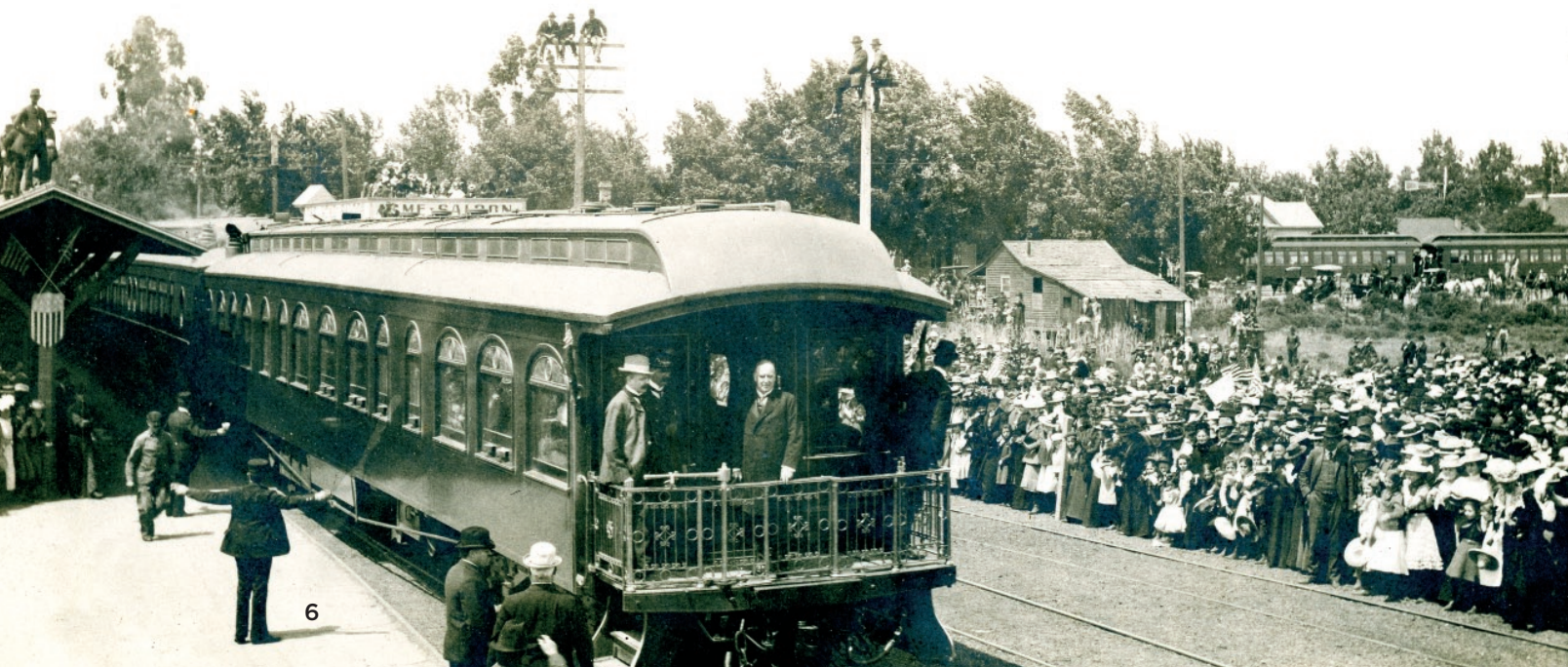
After this conflict between the U.S. and the British Empire, Freemasonry enjoyed great popularity.

“Freemasonry became *the* group to join if you wanted to be identified with the fraternity of the Founding Fathers,” writes Brother Chris Hodapp, author of “Freemasons for Dummies,” on his blog. “Politicians absolutely wanted to be Freemasons, and it did help them get elected.”

The Morgan Affair

However, this political popularity fueled a backlash a few years later when William Morgan, a New York resident who reportedly was denied admission into Masonry, went missing in 1826 after he threatened to publish a book exposing Masonic secrets. Morgan’s disappearance ignited a fierce U.S. movement against Freemasons, including the creation of the Anti-Masonic Party, the first “third party” in American politics.

Indeed, because many bankers, businessmen, judges, and politicians at the time were Masons, some citizens felt the fraternity was an elitist club that violated the principles of democracy. As a result, lodges closed and Masons retreated from the public eye.



The American Civil War

A few decades later, Masonry found favor again. After the Civil War ended in 1865, fraternities in general became popular as men sought help finding employment, resources for medical care, and services for widows and orphans.

“Following the Civil War, many yearned for some sense of brotherly love to reunite the country,” says Brother Brent Morris, managing editor of *The Scottish Rite Journal*. “Immigrants sought the comfort of their own countrymen and wanted benefits such as life or burial insurance that were denied them by commercial insurance companies.”

Throughout this period, Morris explains, Freemasonry enjoyed a “position of preeminence,” as it was one of the few fraternities that did *not* guarantee such benefits to its members. Instead, Freemasonry was a source of social prestige.

“It was the oldest and most widespread of American fraternities,” Morris says. “Its membership included many heroes of the American Revolution. It must have even enjoyed a certain intriguing reputation from the anti-Masonic period such a short time before.”

World War I

World War I, 1914-18, marked a great increase in Masonic membership in the U.S., thanks not only to Masonic war heroes but also to the fraternity’s growing focus on charity. Amid a national polio epidemic, followed by rising numbers of widows and orphans after the war, Masonry stepped in to help. While other fraternities were selling cheap insurance to their members, Hodapp writes, Masons were building orphanages and retirement homes, and Shriners were building hospitals.

He adds that the period between 1890 and the Depression was a “building boom” for Freemasonry and society as a whole. Masons built lavish temples, and the Scottish Rite conducted theatrical presentations that were very popular – all of which added to the appeal of Freemasonry. That boom, however, was unsustainable.



HISTORY

The Great Depression

By the 1920s, Morris explains, immigrants had become integrated in the mainstream, so they relied less on fraternal groups. Likewise, people

depended less on fraternities for insurance and other services, which had become more widely available.

As a result, membership in fraternities declined. And with the arrival of the Depression in 1929, membership in Masonry followed suit, gradually sinking to a low of about 2.4 million Masons in 1941, according to the Masonic Service Association of North America (MSANA). It would take another world war to reignite membership.

World War II

World War II, 1939-45, launched a great resurgence for Freemasonry – both during and after the war.

Richard Fletcher, executive secretary for the Masonic Service Association of North America, says that during the war, the association developed a network of Masonic Service Centers, which were housed in Masonic buildings in the U.S., London, and Paris. Featuring refreshments and entertainment, these centers served as a home away from home for the military, while increasing positive awareness of Freemasonry.

After the war, Freemasonry surged again in popularity, as the Greatest Generation was ready to celebrate. Masonic membership reached an all-time high in 1959 with more than 4 million Masons in the U.S. The Shrine also became enormously popular, as the hospital charity earned public respect, and Shriners became known for their parties, parades, circuses, and brass bands.

“Freemasonry became a social hall,” Hodapp writes in “Freemasons for Dummies.” “Dances, card parties, fish fries, pancake breakfasts, rummage sales – all were the events that brought the Masons of the ’50s and ’60s into lodge.”

The Vietnam Era

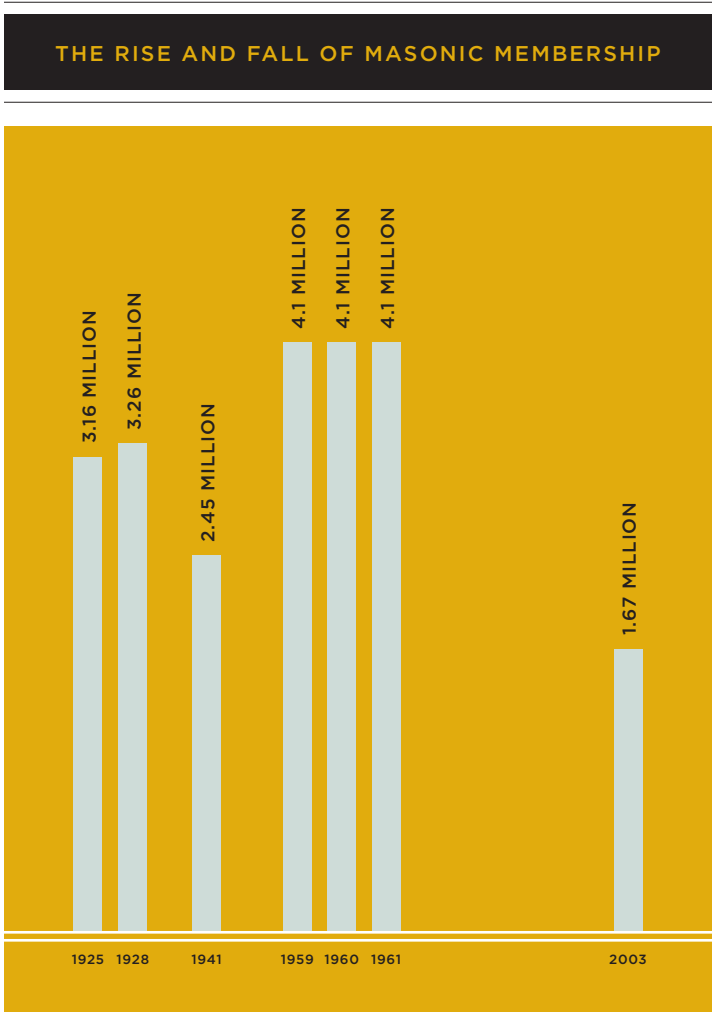
Alas, the World War II upturn was followed by the longest and steepest downturn in the history of U.S. membership, as many Baby Boomers – those born between 1946 and 1964 – did not seek out Freemasonry. In the 1970s, Freemasonry – along with other social and civic groups established before the 1960s – plummeted in popularity.



“The Vietnam generation resisted joining traditional mainstream organizations,” according to a report by the Masonic Information Center. “This was a generation turned off by anyone over 35. To this group, any organization that embraced traditional values was distrusted.”

As a result, Masonry skipped a generation and, arguably, has never quite recovered. In many lodges, Hodapp notes, the men who joined the fraternity 50 years ago are the ones who have kept it alive.

Today, as generations X and Y consider Freemasonry, the fraternity is challenged to build membership while bridging generation gaps and creating relevance in a changing society. But if history is any guide, membership may continue to ebb and flow with events of the world. ✦



Source: Masonic Information Center

On the Other Side of the Pond

THE IMPACT OF THE FRENCH REVOLUTION

In the late 1780s, on the eve of the French Revolution, there were about 635 Masonic lodges affiliated with the Grand Orient of France. By 1796, there were only about 20.

“The French Revolution was quite disruptive for Freemasons in France,” says Masonic scholar Kenneth Loiselle, assistant professor of history at Trinity University in San Antonio. “Many lodges throughout the kingdom closed down with the outbreak of the French Revolution in 1789.”

By the Reign of Terror in 1793-94, many of the lodges that did continue to operate had become very politicized. Loiselle says one lodge in Bordeaux, for example, required candidates to be loyal patriots and adherents to the French Republic, whereas lodges previously avoided the discussion of politics.

“The Revolution brought a whole host of anti-Masonic writers out of the woodwork who equated Freemasonry with progressive, anti-monarchical politics, and this image stuck with them for the rest of their history,” Loiselle says. “So you could say that the French Revolution was to French Freemasonry what the Anti-Masonic Party was to American Freemasonry: a moment of profound transformation.”

BACK TO THE FUTURE

HOW WOULD MASONRY LOOK TODAY IF HISTORY WERE REWRITTEN?

by John L. Cooper III, Past Grand Secretary

Many may remember the 1985 movie, “Back to the Future,” where a time traveler almost prevents his parents from meeting, a feat that would potentially eliminate his own existence. It was an amusing story, and while the logic may have been in doubt, the thesis was at least tenable.

Imagine, if you will, that some Masonic events of the past had turned out differently. Would we recognize the Freemasonry that might have resulted? Let’s take a look.

Permanent lodges in England come into existence

In the beginning, Masonic lodges were casual affairs – at least they were in England.

Although we have evidence of operative lodges in Scotland from early days, it seems as if lodges in England were created to “make a Mason,” and then dissolved, never to meet again. We know that this is how Elias Ashmole was made a Mason in 1646 at Warrington, in Lancashire, because he wrote about it in his diary.

We know nothing of the ceremonies used, but apparently anyone who knew the ritual could convene a “lodge,” and make a Mason.

Had this practice prevailed, we would not have the kind of lodges that we know today, much less any of the rest of Freemasonry. There



would be no Grand Lodge, no York Rite or Scottish Rite, no Eastern Star. All we would have would be some men who had been made Masons somewhere, sometime, with no connection to one another except having the common experience of a single, simple, ceremony.

Masonry becomes a three-degree system

What little we know about our early ceremonies of “making a Mason” shows that most of what we have in our three degrees today was not there in the beginning. There may have been Entered Apprentices, “Fellows,” and perhaps some who were called “Master Masons,” but there was virtually nothing to distinguish them from a ritual standpoint.

Had Freemasonry remained that way, the beauty of our ritual and lectures never would have descended to us.



Grand lodge is invented

There was no “grand lodge” until 1717, and when it was created, it was not for the purpose of governing the lodges nor for creating new ones. That had to await future developments.

The original purpose, as found in our records, was to hold a banquet for the four original lodges. Grand lodge was originally a kind of “dinner committee” to plan the event!

Freemasonry almost dies in America

In 1826 the Morgan Affair almost demolished Freemasonry entirely. In the years that followed, we lost 60 percent of our members, and one grand lodge closed down entirely because it had no lodges left. Several states considered legislation that would have made it illegal to be a Mason. The damage to us was significant, but we survived, and in the following generation Freemasonry began once more to flourish in America.

When we look at the present we see the seeds of the future. In the 1990s it seemed as if Freemasonry in America was sliding down a steep and slippery slope to oblivion. Lodges were closing for lack of interest by their members; most only conferred degrees occasionally because they had no candidates. The average age of our members climbed as the fraternity became older without new and younger members.

Then suddenly things changed. Freemasonry was discovered by a new generation, and we began to grow once more. Lodges discovered that men wanted to become Masons, and they started conferring degrees once more. New lodges came into existence as Freemasonry began to climb out of the despondent 1990s into a new world after the turn of the 21st century. But what would have happened if that had not occurred?

Back to the future

Think for a moment if Freemasonry had not been ready for the surge of interest which broke upon us in recent years.

What if almost all our lodges had disappeared, so that there was nowhere that a man could apply for the degrees? What if our officers had forgotten the ritual, so that they could no longer make Masons? What if our lodges had been so unfriendly that they chased away all the men that were seeking us out?

What if the few remaining Masons had so little respect and love for Freemasonry that they didn't care if anyone else ever became a Mason? What if the lodges had become places of apathy and indolence, or places where members would rather quarrel with one another than practice the brotherhood that they were supposed to understand? What if no Masons were willing to recommend a man to become a Mason because they had no idea why they themselves were Masons?

Could it have happened in America? In California? In your lodge?

The future of Freemasonry is in our hands. Our ancestors made some good decisions that changed Freemasonry in a positive way so that it became the great fraternity that we cherish. Had they not done so, we would not have Freemasonry as we know it.

You and I are the “ancestors” of the future Masons. What are we doing to make Freemasonry flourish for them? What will they think if they, too, could come “back to the future”? ✨

FEATURE

MASONRY

FOR THE

Next DECADE

TOGETHER WE'LL MAKE A
PROFOUND DIFFERENCE

by Laura Normand



Where does the fraternity need to be in five years?

That's a question California Masons and others in the fraternal family are addressing. At strategic planning activities throughout the state, they shared visions for the future of Masonry. An online survey drew thoughtful responses from more than 2,700 members about need for change and strategic priorities. From those ideas and feedback, the fraternity's strategic plan for 2010-15 is taking shape.

Carlos Verduzco, who identifies himself as an "ideas guy," attended a planning forum in Sacramento. At 28, he has a devotion to the craft that belies his one year of membership. When he stood up at the forum, it was to talk about the importance of breaking down cultural barriers, and to share ideas for making new members feel welcomed and wanted.

Jay Milla, 35, lives in Los Angeles. He's also an ideas guy – professionally, he's done everything from film-making to investment strategies – and he is shaking things up at his lodge with his own big ideas. "You have to have a spirit of entrepreneurship about your lodge," he says. "It's up to you to create the experience."

They joined for different reasons – Verduzco to make the world a better place; Milla to broaden his perspective. But they share many of the same goals for the future of the fraternity.

In fact, that's what happened statewide. Through open forums, e-mails, phone calls, online discussion boards, and an electronic survey, members shared opinions about priorities for California Masonry. Despite differences in Masonic experience, community, and background, common themes emerged for how the fraternity should position itself to grow and thrive in the next five years.

Based on the collective feedback, here are the key objectives of California Masonry's 2010-15 strategic plan.

1.12.13.14.15

ENGAGE: Enhance the membership experience

THE NEW MEMBER

Milla grew up in Europe, the birthplace of Masonry, but it wasn't until he moved to California that he became a Mason. What first attracted him was a visit to his grandfather's grave. He noticed a square and compass engraved on the headstone, and realized it was also on his great uncle's grave.

"I wanted to carry on the tradition," he says. "I was also at a pivotal point in my life, when I wanted to expand my horizons." Milla submitted his application to Santa Monica-Palisades Lodge No. 307 in fall 2008 and was initiated three months later. One of the things that kept him coming back was the open dialogue he experienced with lodge brothers. They made themselves available to answer his numerous questions, including concerns about popular conspiracy theories. Now, as senior steward, Milla takes it upon himself to call up new members and ask if they have any questions.

Verduzco is working towards a similar lodge culture. "When I joined, it was 'We'll see you in six months when you're a Master Mason.' I didn't like that," he says, "I thought we could do a better job of making new members feel part of a team." He's starting a special fellowship night for Entered Apprentices at the lodge.

The strategic plan targets these, and other key areas for enhancing the membership experience.

IMPROVE THE MEMBER EXPERIENCE

- » Create more opportunities for Entered Apprentice and Fellow Craft Masons to get involved in lodge
- » Focus on strong candidate coaching in every lodge
- » Improve engagement of fraternal family members with a focus on family-friendly activities and resources
- » Improve the application and investigation process
- » Improve programs to be more than business meetings and degrees

IMPROVE THE ADVANCEMENT EXPERIENCE

- » Develop a more meaningful candidate advancement experience
- » Improve candidate coaching; develop resources and training
- » Focus on consistent, meaningful, well-delivered ritual; identify new ways to teach ritual

ALL MEMBERS

"I like the camaraderie, but that's not why I joined," Verduzco says. "I joined to make a difference in my community. I wanted to be part of something bigger."

"The more I learn about Masonry," he continues, "the more I realize that many of the great people in this world were Masons. That's their common denominator. I want to be part of that."

Verduzco's dream is to make the lodge a second home for members, and a partner for the community. "I don't like the mentality of going to stated meeting just to check a box and go home," he says. "I want to have an impact in my community and lodge and, hopefully, California."

That's why the strategic plan focuses on objectives that make a profound difference in the lives of members and communities – a difference that gets to the heart of issues, and truly changes lives.



ENGAGE

DEVELOP A STATEWIDE PROGRAM TO SUPPORT PUBLIC EDUCATION

Provide programs and opportunities that lodges and members can embrace and participate in, that demonstrate measurable results, and are supported by local and state leadership

DEVELOP LEADING RESEARCH AND INNOVATIVE CARE FOR MIND AND BODY

Develop research and services offered by the Masonic Homes that improve quality of life and care for Masons and non-Masons

EDUCATE

EXCEL

EDUCATE: Expand Masonic education

Milla recently created a history program for and about Santa Monica-Palisades Lodge. It includes information about the lodge's original founders, its first masters, and other details from its earliest history. The program is especially geared towards newer members, to give them a greater sense of connection to their lodge. Someday, Milla envisions a discussion board for California Masons to post entries on historical topics, as well as pose and answer questions about membership today.

During strategic planning activities, members and families echoed what Milla knew instinctively: learning about history is an important part of feeling engaged in the present.

Masonry's past is an important piece of the fraternal experience today, attracting prospects and forming a unique bond between members, who become part of an organization that has influenced societies around the world.

With that in mind, the strategic plan outlines goals to expand education about Masonry's rich history.

Long story short

**SUMMARY OF THE 2010-15
STRATEGIC PLAN PRIORITIES**

Masonic education. Educate members and communities about the fraternity's enduring history, values, practical application of principles, and relevance to society today.

Membership experience. Engage and retain members and their families through an enhanced, relevant membership experience – from application to ritual and beyond.

Philanthropy. Make a profound difference for public education in California; improve quality of life for members and their families.

Leadership and management. Strengthen our leaders and cultivate new ones; strengthen management and governance effectiveness at all levels.

Beyond the lodge. Instill a wider Masonic perspective, inside and outside the fraternity, by deepening the connection among members and to their lodges, Grand Lodge, and the worldwide body of Freemasonry.

10.11.12.13.14.15.

EDUCATE OUR MEMBERS

- » Improve the basic candidate education program
- » Develop material suitable for self-study, lectures, group discussions, small groups, ongoing classes and further research, reflection and writing

DEVELOP AND EXPAND EDUCATION MODULES AND EVENTS

- » Provide expanded education modules and events for members and the public
- » Continue to improve the California Masonic Symposium
- » Advance the use of technology to deliver education modules and events

EXCEL: Strengthen leadership and community awareness

WITHIN THE LODGE

Once Verduzco joined Masonry, it wasn't long before he joined the line. Initiated in August 2009, he is already a junior deacon at Riverbank Lodge No. 459. This year he attended the Lodge Management Certification Program and UCLA-sponsored summer classes on the history of Masonry, and credits them with greatly expanding his knowledge of Masonry and how the lodge works.

He used his leadership role to start a lodge Facebook page, which has already resulted in

one new member. Verduzco has other ideas for Riverbank Lodge, too, such as rekindling a partnership with the local high school.

Although he's one of the lodge's youngest members, Verduzco is a natural leader and has the support of his lodge brothers. The strategic plan guarantees that he'll soon have even more support from his fraternity.

BUILD STRONG LODGE LEADERSHIP TEAMS

- » Provide team-oriented joint training for lodge masters, wardens, and other officers
- » Structure training to focus on applied leadership at all levels
- » Develop more resources for lodge finance, administration, and building management
- » Improve lodge leadership succession

IMPROVE TRAINING

- » Analyze courses and revise to increase relevance
- » Develop new leadership and management training
- » Advance the use of technology

INCREASE ACCESS TO TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

- » Increase online training participation
- » Develop more live online events
- » Provide online videos and podcasts

BEYOND THE LODGE

Verduzco hopes the fraternity will become more open and transparent. As the first person in his family to become a Mason, he recalls wrestling with doubts about how to join in the first place, and how to separate fact from fiction when it came to myths about the fraternity.

"Masonry has always been in my heart, I just didn't know how to ask or what to do. I always thought, maybe they don't want me or maybe I'm not good enough," Verduzco says. A colleague in the military finally gave him the confidence to apply, and immediately,

he felt accepted by his lodge and the fraternity. It was only then that he realized his fears and hesitation had been for nothing. “Maybe if I had more information, I would’ve asked to join when I was 18,” Verduzco says. “Then I would’ve already had seven or eight years in the craft, instead of just one.

INCREASE COMMUNITY AWARENESS

- » Focus on community relations; seek opportunities for lodges to be a community resource
- » Increase awareness and instill a wider, positive Masonic perspective outside the fraternity

INCREASE FRATERNAL CONNECTIONS

- » Plan joint lodge and district activities and programs
- » Connect members and lodges with the worldwide fraternity

Milla and Verduzco share an attitude that can best be described as “Ask not what your fraternity can do for you; ask what you can do for your fraternity.”

Milla says that he’ll embrace the strategic plan by leading by example. “A lot of guys ask, What’s the fraternity going to do for me? I’ve decided to look at it the other way. I can call everyone in the lodge before stated meeting, and I can create new lodge programming. What I expect from my fraternity is that others will do the same.”

He and Verduzco are just two of the thousands of members who participated in the strategic planning process, and the plan is being built around their collective priorities. With the fraternity united under common goals, the decade ahead promises exciting changes.

One of Verduzco’s personal heroes is Benjamin Franklin, who famously said “When you’re finished changing; you’re finished.” After 300-plus years, the fraternity has already undergone major changes to remain relevant. In California, a new chapter has just begun. ♦

Long story short

WHAT TO WATCH FOR IN 2010-15

Masonic education

- » New and expanded education modules and events

Membership experience

- » Improved application and investigation process
- » Improved advancement experience
- » Additional meaningful ways to participate in the Masonic experience

Philanthropy

- » New statewide program to support public education
- » Leading research and innovative care for mind and body (see Masonic Assistance, p. 26, about the new Masonic Center for Youth and Families)

Leadership

- » Greater focus on strong lodge leadership teams
- » Improved management training
- » Increased access to training opportunities

Beyond the lodge

- » Increased fraternal connections
- » Increased community awareness

Editor’s note: The Masons of California 2010-15 Strategic Plan is currently being developed based on these member priorities. The complete plan will be distributed by the end of the year.

COACHING — A FOCUS FOR THE FUTURE

THESE UNSUNG HEROES KEEP NEW MEMBERS ENGAGED AND COMING BACK FOR MORE

by Cason Lane

As California Masonry strives to engage a new generation of Masons, candidate coaching is emerging as a key strategy. One lodge – Saddleback Laguna No. 672 in Lake Forest – has a successful approach for helping candidates in their journey.

Three years ago, the lodge's leadership noticed that some candidates weren't showing up for meetings or making progress in their degrees. In response, the lodge started revamping its coaching program. Today, attendance at lodge meetings averages 30 to 40 members, up from a dozen members just a few years ago, and the number of degrees conferred each year has steadily grown. While plenty of factors are at play in the lodge's success, coaching has been a vital part of the game plan.

"Coaching has a very strong influence on the candidate and is very important in retention and keeping the candidate active in the lodge," says Master Steve Bass.

"A coach is a coach for life," he stresses, "not just for the three degrees."

One of the lodge's tactics is a biannual coaches' workshop. At the three-hour event, coaches gather to discuss coaching techniques.

"It's a forum for a valuable exchange of ideas and practices," says Gary Silverman, senior warden and coach. "It's a great workshop where everyone brings tools to the table."

While all candidates use the same information to advance through the degrees, the lodge encourages candidates and coaches to use a learning style that works best for them. Some thrive in a group setting, while others prefer working one-on-one.

A candidate success story

The latter was true for Peter Lofthouse, who joined Saddleback Laguna in August 2009 and became a Master Mason in the spring of 2010. He attributes his quick progression to the one-on-one coaching he received from Junior Warden Eric Hanan.

"I wanted someone who was passionate and very serious about Masonry," Lofthouse says. "I wanted to dive in and learn everything."

Lofthouse welcomed Hanan's coaching style, which often included homework such as literature to read or small articles to write between coaching sessions.

"If you can find a coach you can make a connection with, it makes the process a lot more enjoyable," he says. "Eric and I are both passionate people who care about Masonry so much."

Hanan, who has been coaching for about two years, agrees. "Coaching can make or break a lodge," he says. "If a candidate doesn't enjoy his coach, he'll stop coming, so a good match is very important."

He adds that one goal of coaching is to create knowledgeable, engaged Masons who ultimately will help build the membership.

"A knowledgeable Mason will stick around and become more involved in lodge activities," Hanan says. "Happy members attract more people. When you enjoy something, you share your joy."

While a coach has perhaps the greatest impact on a candidate's success, Lofthouse says, the lodge's overall attitude toward new members is also important.

"It's really a collective effort," he says. "Our worshipful master encourages getting new people involved. Their game plan is to make people passionate, active, and be a part of the lodge."

WEB EXTRA

Think your lodge has an outstanding coaching program? Fill out this questionnaire, and we'll share your Best Practice with the fraternity.





PETER LOFTHOUSE'S SIX-MONTH TRACK TO MASTER MASON WAS AS DEMANDING AS IT WAS REWARDING. HIS COACH, ERIC HANAN, CHALLENGED HIM WITH REQUIRED READING AND ESSAY ASSIGNMENTS.

Degree in a day

As Saddleback Laguna aims to cultivate eager, enthusiastic members, Bass encourages candidates to participate in lodge activities, from filling committee positions to helping elderly brothers with home repairs on the weekend.

But sometimes, despite coaching and support of the lodge, candidates still have trouble progressing through their degrees. To help those candidates in their Masonic study, the lodge created an annual proficiency workshop where candidates can receive specialized

Want To Start Your Own Candidate-Coaching Program?

HERE ARE A FEW SUGGESTIONS FROM SADDLEBACK LAGUNA LODGE NO. 672:

- » **ASSEMBLE A TEAM OF DEDICATED COACHES.** Being an effective coach requires a lot of time and effort. Select coaches who are available and have a passion for learning and Masonry.
- » **THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX.** Don't be afraid to try new things. Be creative and look for innovative solutions to coaching issues.
- » **DON'T LOSE SIGHT OF THE MASONIC PRINCIPLES.** One way to keep candidates engaged is to show them respect, courtesy, and compassion. Just because they're young or new doesn't mean they don't have something to contribute.

attention from coaches. The intent is to help candidates pass their current degree during the one-day workshop – a challenging goal, but one the lodge's coaches are up to achieving.

“Coaches are really the unsung heroes of the lodge,” Silverman says. “They’re not looking to be in the limelight. They just want to work with candidates for the betterment of the lodge.” ✦

GREAT MINDS THINK ALIKE

ACADEMICS AROUND THE WORLD FOCUS ON FREEMASONRY

by Cason Lane

Across the globe, researchers and scholars have started paying attention to a long-neglected topic. They're teaching about it, publishing papers on it, creating exhibitions about it, and devoting conferences to it.

That topic is Freemasonry. Though it's centuries old, it has only recently emerged as a field of serious academic study. In the past few decades, professors, writers, curators, and other academics have embraced Freemasonry as an important and exciting lens for studying world history.

Here, *California Freemason* talks to a few of them.

Regalia, paraphernalia, and American history

Aimee Newell, a museum professional, historian, and textiles expert, was looking for a job where she could research and write about emerging topics – and she found it at the National Heritage Museum in Lexington, Mass.

She quickly became captivated by Freemasonry and its intersection with American life in the 18th and 19th centuries.

"I have found it so fascinating to see how, over the past two or three centuries in the U.S., Freemasonry is everywhere," says Newell, director of collections at the museum. "When you start to look into it, you see how many people belonged and that virtually every community had a Masonic lodge. It's hard to ignore it."

As a scholar, a writer, and a researcher, Newell has found Freemasonry to be an endless source of academic investigation. Unlike other academic topics that have been thoroughly excavated, she says, Freemasonry is comparatively untouched, so researchers can often find something about it that speaks to them.

For her, that something has been the objects and textiles that form the material culture of Masonry. In addition to working with her museum's collection of aprons, she recently started a new research project: the Masonic jewels created by Paul Revere.

"Most people know him because of his connection to the Revolutionary War and his midnight ride, but he was a very prolific silversmith in Boston," she explains. "And there are quite a few lodges in Massachusetts that have, or purport to have, Masonic jewels that he made for them."

Newell is also drawing from her knowledge of Masonry and textiles to develop an exhibit on Masonic costume. Scheduled to open in the spring at the National Heritage Museum, the exhibit will show that fraternal attire is not about men in funny costumes; it's often about a meaningful connection to a given time.

"It is something that people are really fascinated by but is often misunderstood," she says, citing the Shriners' fez as an example. "In the 1870s there was a huge vogue for Middle Eastern travel and decorative arts. And, of course, the Shrine is formed in 1872, so it seems only natural that they looked to one of the fashion trends at the time."

Newell never intended to become so immersed in Freemasonry. "I didn't go into it thinking I was going to be a Masonic scholar," she laughs. "It just worked out that way."

WEB EXTRA

Newell's Masonic costume exhibit opens this spring at the National Heritage Museum. In the meantime, check out this current exhibit: "The Initiated Eye: Secrets, Symbols, Freemasonry and the Architecture of Washington, D.C."





French conferences and classrooms

While Newell became a Masonic authority somewhat by accident, French scholar Cécile Révauger amassed her knowledge through in-depth

research of the 18th century and the Age of Enlightenment. In the course of these studies, she decided to devote her Ph.D. in 1987 to 18th-century English, Scottish, and American Freemasonry – the first French thesis on that subject.

Révauger, now a professor of English studies at Bordeaux University in France, has since become renowned for Masonic scholarship. Among her many achievements, she has written a book about black Freemasonry, she has studied Freemasonry in the Caribbean, she manages an international academic program on Freemasonry, and she most recently organized the first international conference on women and Freemasonry. This conference, held in June in Bordeaux, featured 50 academic presentations and attracted 150 participants from across the globe.

“The conference highlighted the presence of women in Freemasonry as early as the 18th century – mostly in France, but also in the Netherlands and, more surprisingly, in England and New England,” says Révauger, who is a member of the Grande Loge Féminine de France.

For the past five years, Révauger has worked with Charles Porset, of the National Center for Scientific Research in Paris, on a soon-to-be-published biographical dictionary of 18th-century Freemasons. Called “Le Monde Maçonnique des Lumières,” the book features entries from more than 150 authors.

In addition to communicating about Freemasonry through books and conferences, Révauger teaches two master’s-level classes on Freemasonry at Bordeaux University. One is on Freemasonry and secularism; the other is on Freemasonry, liberty, and the Enlightenment.

“Students are particularly enthusiastic,” she says. “Once they realize that Freemasonry is not a sect and that secrecy does not preclude serious academic study, they are eager to launch into original research themselves.”

Update: Partnership to Advance the Study and Understanding of Freemasonry

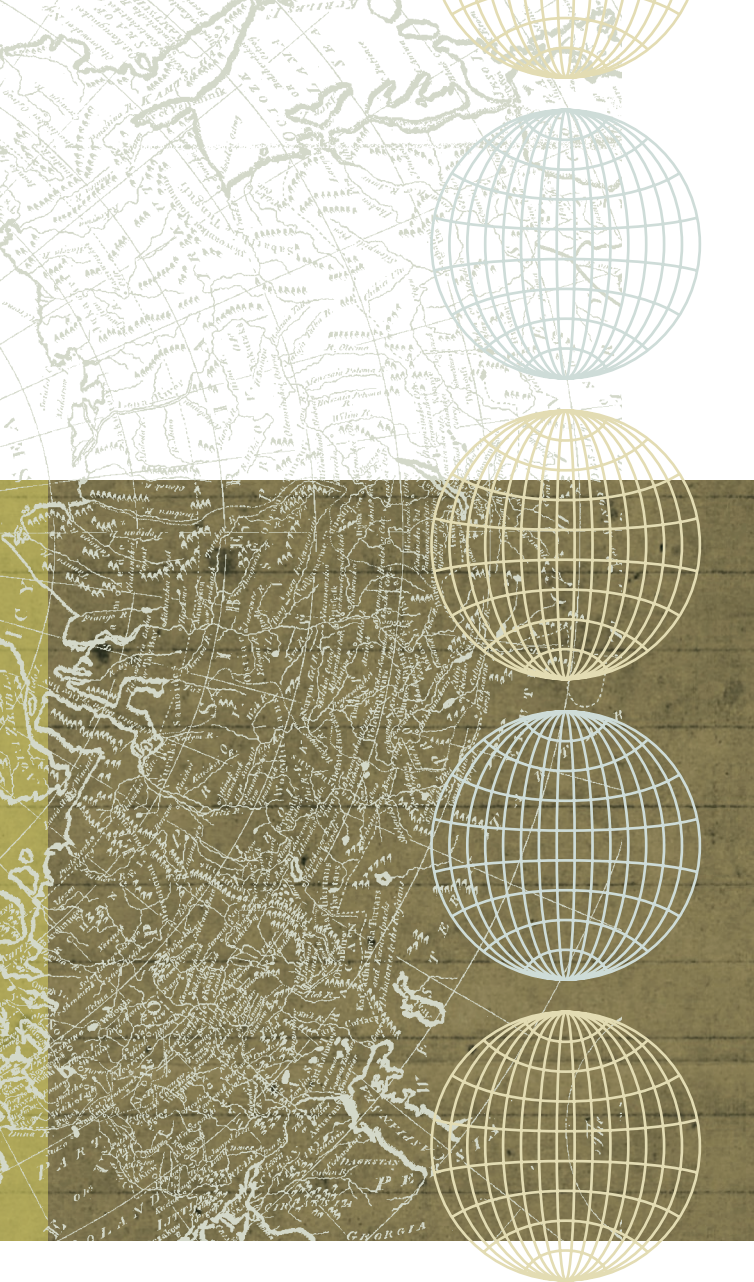
It’s been nearly two years since the Grand Lodge of California initiated a ground-breaking partnership with the University of California, Los Angeles.

Led by Masonic scholar Dr. Margaret C. Jacob, UCLA developed two undergraduate courses: Freemasonry and American democracy, and Freemasonry and European history. The courses debuted in the spring 2010 semester with full rosters. UCLA will offer a new class about Freemasonry in Latin America in the fall.

This summer, Grand Lodge offered accelerated versions of the spring 2010 classes, taught by UCLA instructors, to Masons and non-Masons throughout the state. (For exclusive coverage, see page 24.) Grand Lodge and UCLA will continue to seek ways to offer these educational opportunities to California Masons.

The UCLA partnership dispels myths about Masonry and helps the public understand Masonry’s formative role in society today. Through it, the Grand Lodge of California is taking a leading role in advancing the study of Masonry.





WEB EXTRA

Read Dr. Margaret Jacob's account of the Moscow archives in the Aug/Sep 2009 issue of *California Freemason*.

Freemasonry in Russia

Natalie Bayer is another academic whose interest in Freemasonry grew out of research about the 18th century and the Enlightenment. Bayer worked with Dr. Margaret C. Jacob at the University of California, Los Angeles to create the school's history course on Freemasonry in Europe.

"The more I studied the intellectual and cultural milieu of Europe in the 18th century, the more it became apparent to me that Freemasonry was one of the vehicles for the creation, development, and discussion of ideas in the European public sphere," says Bayer, who recently taught a summer course on Freemasonry at UCLA.

Bayer, who is Russian, says she is particularly interested in Leo Tolstoy's portrayal of early 19th-century Russian Freemasonry in his book "War and Peace" – which is markedly different from the portrayal of European Freemasonry in the 18th century. Working from

this idea, Bayer hopes to write a book on the interactions between European and Russian Masonic lodges in the 18th century.

Her research has included time in Moscow, where she worked with the "trophy" archives of Masonic documents that were collected by the Nazis in World War II. At the end of the war, she explains, the Soviet Army discovered these documents in Berlin and rushed them to Moscow.

"This collection boasted some truly unique Masonic documents. They shed light on the life of European lodges over the course of more than two centuries," she says.

A foundation for the future

The work of these and other Masonic scholars is turning up in symposiums, classrooms, publications, and research organizations around the world.

Netherlands-based Masonic scholar Andreas Önnersfors, editor of the recently launched *Journal for Research into Freemasonry and Fraternalism*, says Freemasonry is an ever-growing area of academic research.

"Academia has only relatively recently discovered that a better understanding of Freemasonry and related fraternal organizations offers a fascinating insight into the many neglected fields of social, cultural, and political history," he writes in the inaugural issue of the publication. "The rich abundance of source material relating to Freemasonry, as well as the geographical spread of the fraternity and the ideological and organizational dynamic of the craft's associational life, offer many rewarding channels of inquiry." ♦

IN PURSUIT OF FREEDOM

EIGHTEENTH-CENTURY FREEMASONS MIXED FREEDOM AND POLITICS, AND CREATED DEMOCRACY

by Heather Boerner

Imagine a time when voting was something done in private, in small groups of men cloistered temporarily from the monarchies that ruled their lives – men who had self-selected into a fraternity that elevated them into men of morals.

Now, imagine being the men to write a constitution, to craft the rules for a whole nation, applying to everyone equally.

The 18th century was a remarkable time for that dichotomy, when a select few who had tasted the freedom and responsibility of democracy set about to share it with the rest of the world.

An arena for American ideals

“If public happiness, public life, and being with other people and engaging in common projects for the common good is the most important thing one can do, where does that happen?” Matthew Crow, a lecturer at the University of California, Los Angeles and PhD candidate in history, asked a room of Masons recently. “In the 18th century, that was precisely the environment in which Freemasonry mattered.”

In fact, Freemasonry didn’t just matter in the early American republic – it was essential. In a special Masonic education program last summer, Masons and members of the public discussed why.

They were taking part in an abbreviated version of Crow’s class, usually reserved for UCLA undergraduate students. The course, “Freemasonry and American Democracy in Historical Perspective,” traces the role of Freemasonry in American ideals like equality, brotherly love, and service.

The class takes a look at Freemasonry’s role in American civic life in context with popular thinking from centuries past: the time of Aristotle, the Roman republic, the Renaissance, the Enlightenment, and the American Revolution. All of these contexts, Crow says, are part of a larger discussion about the meaning of freedom.

Is freedom achieved by diligent political involvement, Crow challenges, or by relief from political responsibilities and the right to pursue





What's in your library? Trade Masonic book recommendations – of any genre – with the Masons of California Facebook community.

one's passions unhindered? That's what Masons in 18th-century America tried to sort out.

Politics between brothers

Alexis de Tocqueville once said that the wonder of American society was its little associations: its churches and Masonic lodges.

In the 18th century, it was associations like the Masons that mediated politics, and allowed politics to be discussed in small, diffused groups throughout the American colonies.

Of course, this meant that politics occurred outside the public square. Crow explains that Freemasonry was part of a trend that discouraged people from taking their political thought directly to lawmakers. Instead, people turned to their brothers and their Masonic lodges to navigate their experience of the civic world.

"There's an argument that liberty is safer in a contained environment like that," said Crow. "James Madison ["Father of the Constitution" and fourth president of the United States] believed that if we built a constitution where the power was spread out enough, no single group of people would be able to exercise total control."

A platform for power

But Freemasonry was important for other reasons: it served as a school for republican thought and practice for men who weren't aristocrats, but who had elevated themselves through Masonic membership to become men of power.

Benjamin Franklin, for example, was not an aristocrat by birth, but he owned a printing press and was a learned man and Mason.

Crow takes a moment to address the paradox surrounding "common" members like Franklin, quoting from scholar Wilson Carey McWilliams. "A fraternity always measures itself by society and against society at the same time," he says. "It has universal values, but it takes place in a particular, restricted space. You wouldn't let just anyone become a Mason. If everyone did, it wouldn't mean anything."

In the 18th century, membership was indeed meaningful. It would lead to the creation of democracy. ♦

Anderson's Agenda

James Anderson was commissioned by the Grand Lodge of England to write the history of the fraternity, published in 1723 as *The Constitutions of the Free-Masons*. It's known more commonly as *Anderson's Constitutions*.

According to Matthew Crow, lecturer at the UCLA summer history sessions, at the time the Grand Lodge wanted to expand the scope of its activities beyond London and Westminster. The Constitution was, in large part, a strategy to promote the fraternity's present-day importance by promoting its past.

In 1734 *Anderson's Constitutions* became the first Masonic book printed in America, on none other than Benjamin Franklin's printing press.

"It's a radical text dressed up in old traditions," Crow says, pointing out the almost Biblical language in the Constitutions' long series of "begets." "It's straining to assert that modern Freemasonry has a deep set of roots. It's a recovery, a rediscovery of an older set of ideals."

Today, through academic research around the globe, and in classes like Crow's, scholars continue this rediscovery of Freemasonry's roots from a scholarly perspective.

Editor's note: This is the first of three articles covering the history classes offered by Grand Lodge and UCLA in summer 2010. The series will continue in upcoming issues of California Freemason.

SOMEWHERE TO TURN

THROUGH AN INNOVATIVE NEW
CENTER, CALIFORNIA MASONRY WILL
DO MORE FOR OUR CHILDREN, OUR
MEMBERS, AND OUR COMMUNITIES

*by Steffani Kizziar,
Executive Director of Outreach and Children's Services*

The Masons of California have a long history of helping youth in need. When the first Masonic Home opened in 1898, it provided the greatest relief called for at the time: shelter for the orphaned children of Masons killed by illness or war.

But today, young people face very different issues. Through the Masonic Center for Youth and Families, opening late 2010, California Masons will help youth facing a different kind of hardship.

Answering a fraternal need

Anyone who knows a child struggling with behavioral or learning problems knows how difficult it can be to understand the cause and get professional help. Warning signs can be as simple as trouble making friends or difficulty at school. Many affected youths go their entire lives without diagnosis, feeling isolated and misunderstood.

The effects are devastating. Studies show that lack of diagnosis or a misdiagnosis of these disorders leads to higher rates of crime, teen pregnancy, and suicide. Such complex problems require sophisticated solutions. Yet in California, we currently face a critical gap in treatment services.

To answer this need, the Masonic Center for Youth and Families will open this fall, serving youth age 4 to 17 with behavioral and learning disorders.

Combining a deeply personal approach with clinical sophistication, the Center will take leadership in the fragmented area of psychological services by providing single-point-of-service care from a team of industry-leading professionals. This comprehensive, integrated approach is unavailable anywhere else in the country.

It will also improve the field of psychological services through important research contributions. Its team of experts will conduct ongoing research, working directly with national and international experts such as Dr. Linda Mayes of the Yale Child Study Center.

Child-first philosophy

At the Masonic Center for Youth and Families, a multi-disciplinary team of experts will assess the complete child from all angles – from cognitive, personality, and neuropsychological tests to conversations with the child's teachers, coaches, and other mentors.

This information will create a complete picture of the youth, whether it's the hidden cause behind mood swings, or the bright creativity that doesn't translate into high academic scores.

From this 360-degree viewpoint, the team will get to know the whole child, and develop a comprehensive treatment plan that addresses the child's and the family's needs. In the process, youth will have the opportunity to learn more about themselves and build on their unique strengths. They will have the invaluable experience of being heard, and understood.

Through this unique model of care, the Center – and all California Masons – will help struggling youth achieve their greatest potential.

Accessing services

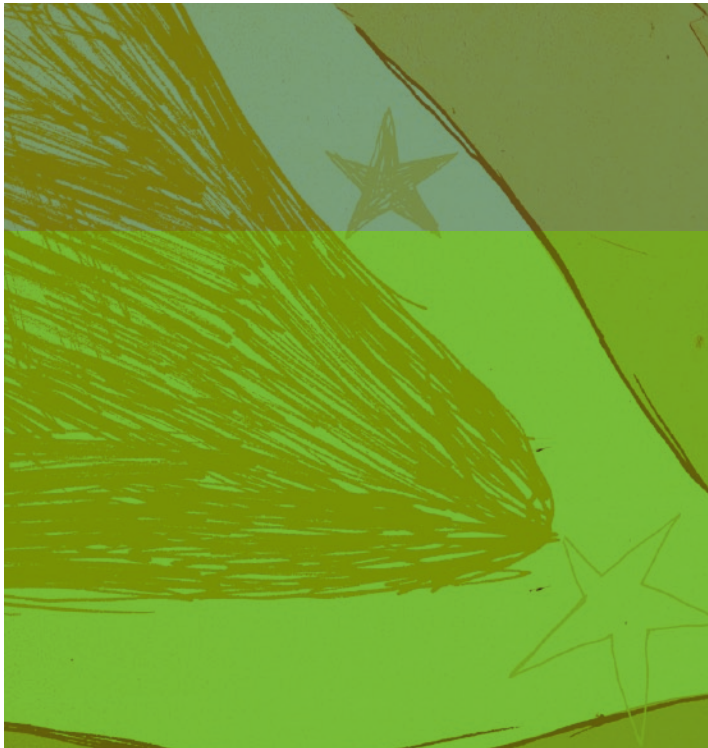
The Center will open late 2010 in San Francisco, designed to serve Masonic and non-Masonic families throughout the state.

Masonic families will always be granted priority, and will receive assistance for travel costs as necessary and appropriate for any on-site services, such as the initial assessment. The team will identify



WEB EXTRA

For information about all support services of the Masonic Homes, visit the recently redesigned masonichome.org.



MASONIC CENTER FOR
YOUTH AND FAMILIES



appropriate resources in the family's home community to continue the treatment plan locally.

A relationship with a thoughtful, caring professional can transform a young person. The Center's mission is to provide this care to every youth in need. No one will be denied services because of a lack of resources.

Our greatest priority is meeting the needs of our Masonic family. For more information, or if you know a young person who is struggling, contact the Masonic Center for Youth and Families at inquiries@mcyf.org or 877/488-6293. ✦

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.

ACACIA CREEK

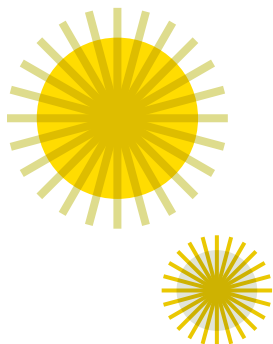
To learn more about Acacia Creek, our new senior living community in Union City, visit acaciacreek.org or contact 877/902-7555 or dwiley@acaciacreek.org.

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.



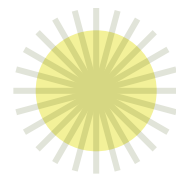
MASONIC ASSISTANCE

FRATERNAL CARE BASED ON MASONIC VALUES

We support and serve the whole family

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

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





When you take a 360-degree view of a young person,
you can't help but see the potential.

As Masons, we strive to reach our greatest potential. Now we're helping struggling youth find theirs. For more than a century, we've been committed to helping people in need. In late 2010, we'll extend that commitment with the Masonic Center for Youth and Families. Our new center will take an innovative approach to psychological services for youth ages 4 to 17 who struggle with behavioral and learning problems. It's a type of care no else offers. Care from a single point of service. Care that forms a 360-degree viewpoint of the young person's world. Care that takes a team approach to provide a unified treatment plan. Learn how a whole new level of care can lead to a whole new future. For information about accessing services, visit mcyaf.org or contact us at inquiries@mcyaf.org or 877-488-6293.



6 Funston Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94129



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1111 CALIFORNIA STREET
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94108

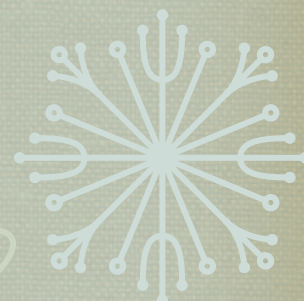
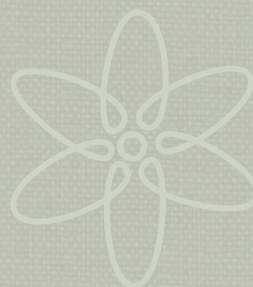
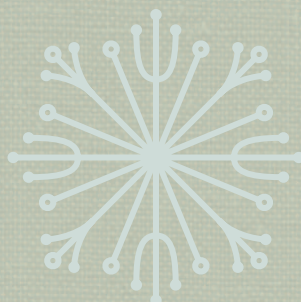
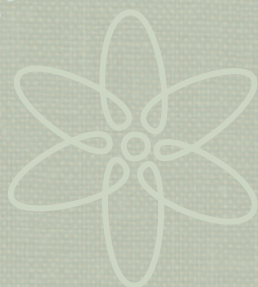
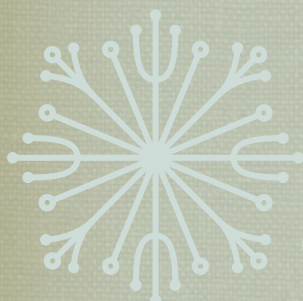
PERIODICALS
POSTAGE
PAID

AT SAN FRANCISCO CA
AND AT ADDITIONAL
MAILING OFFICES



BY YOUR SIDE

BRINGING THE BEST NURSING CARE
TO CANCER PATIENTS AND FAMILIES



Cancer is a lifelong battle for the person affected, and his or her entire family. There are more than 1 million Californians already fighting. This year, more than 120,000 will be told they have cancer.

The Grand Master's Project is dedicated to these individuals and their families.

Building on our partnership with the Association of California Nurse Leaders, the Grand Master's Project will provide support where it's most needed: educational resources for more California nurses to become certified nurse oncologists, a critical need in the state.

With more of these specialists in every hospital, clinic, and medical care center, we will help provide comfort and hope for thousands of patients and their loved ones.

TO CONTRIBUTE, CONTACT THE OFFICE OF PHILANTHROPY
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