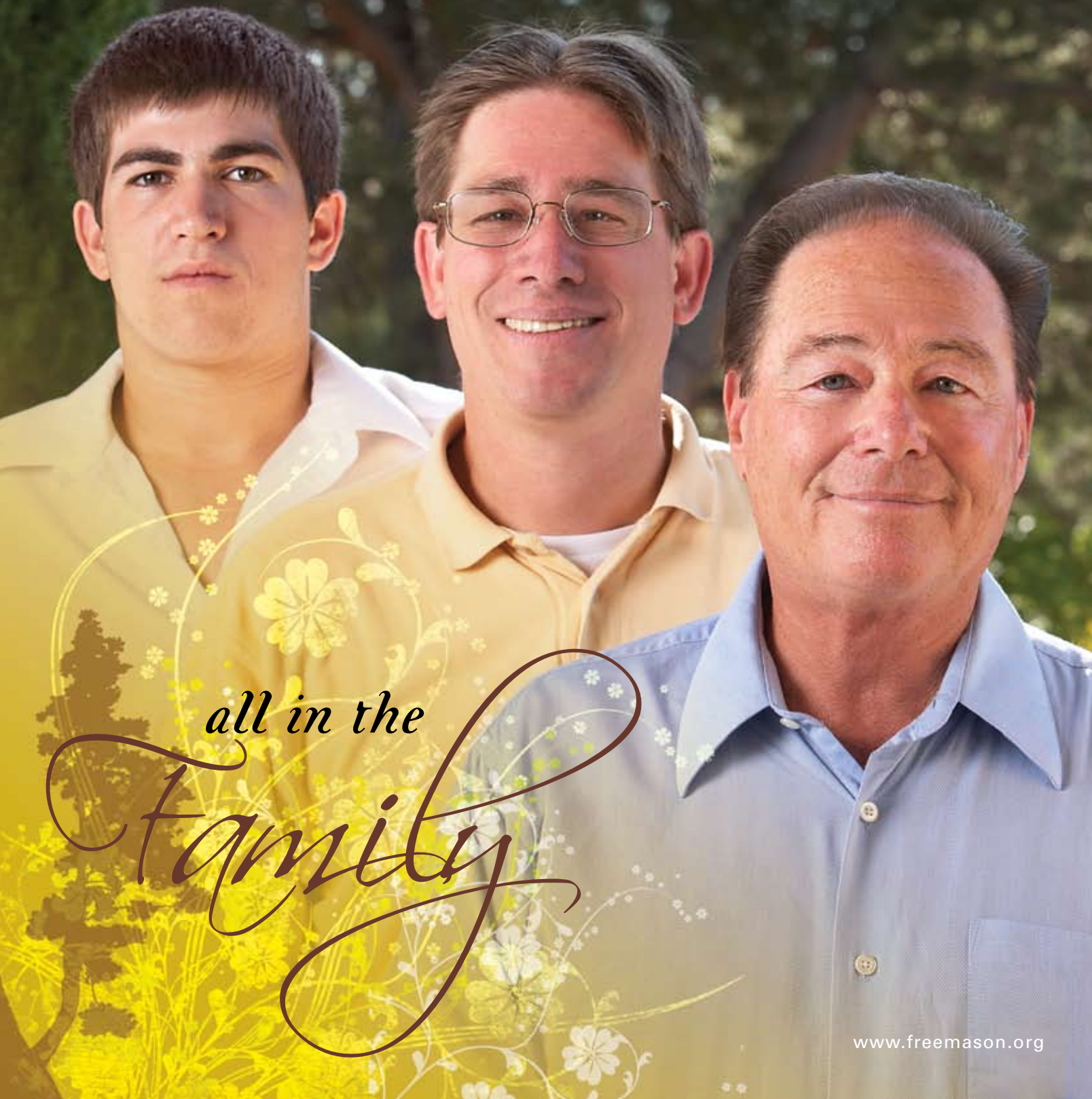


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10 cover story



For centuries membership in Freemasonry was passed on from one generation to another. Many note that in recent times a whole generation seems to have missed out on membership opportunities. In this issue of the California Freemason that focuses on membership in the fraternity, read about one family that has kept the tradition alive. In the Katz family being a Mason isn't just about being part of an international brotherhood, it's also about carrying on a noble family tradition that is now entering its fourth generation.

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5 in California

Changing membership trends lead to a record year. Read how this year's membership numbers are the best in 16 years.



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Follow the changes in membership activity as James Banta explores historic trends.



6 lodge spotlight

Many California lodges have seen an increase in degree activity. Learn what approaches are working for those lodges.



18 masonic education

Increase your Masonic knowledge with two books that give an overview of Freemasonry and its history.



8 masonic education

Consider your membership in the fraternity as John Cooper explains the deeper meaning of the charges of each degree.



19 masonic homes

The Masonic Children's Homes has been a large part of the Covina campus. Learn more about how children benefit from the program.

from the first time a man knocked at the door of Freemasonry, it became clear that its teachings were designed to leave a lasting impression upon his mind. But I'm sure that each of us has had other life experiences that we continue to recall and that have perhaps even guided us in later life.

As a fifteen-year-old, I arrived early Monday morning for the first day of summer practice for my high school football team. As my teammates and I passed through the locker room, we stood in front of Coach Rose's office, where above the door were posted banners with several phrases for all to see. The first said, "He who hesitates is lost." That was followed by "When the going gets tough, the tough get going," and "It's not the size of the dog in the fight; it's the size of the fight in the dog." To some, these may seem to be just silly high school motivational quips, but I believe that they are far more important and relevant to our craft today.

This issue of "California Freemason" addresses membership in our great fraternity and it is in this regard that I reference those lessons from Coach Rose. For four consecutive decades, I believe that our fraternity "hesitated" when dealing with the issue of membership development. We watched our membership steadily decline and we acted as if we were "lost." We accused the changing world and excused ourselves from being the real culprits. As a result of our complacency, we virtually

rebuilding a Membership Culture

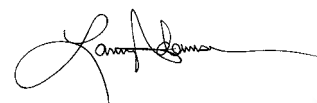
skipped an entire generation of men. We hid behind a misunderstood non-solicitation policy because we lacked the mindset to discuss our craft with the outside world. We withdrew from our communities and attempted to satisfy ourselves from within our own walls.

But as the new millennium began, I believe that the hoodwink started to come off many of our lodge leaders. You see, when the going got tough, the tough got going. Although we continue to see a net loss in our membership, what is changing is the mindset of many of our lodges. Highlighted in several of the articles in this issue are many strategies that are leading to an explosive resurgence in interest in our craft. Hollywood's recent fascination with Masonry has provided us the opportunity to respond to public interest. The number of degrees conferred and new Master Masons made has risen in each of the past five years. In our most recent year (July 2005 to June

2006), we conferred more degrees and made more Entered Apprentices than in any year since 1983.

I am a believer that for membership development to be successful, we must create a "culture" where it is talked about and encouraged. Just like the phrase "courtesy is contagious," so is membership in our craft.

I hope that you will take the time to read this issue thoroughly. Each of us has an obligation to be not only an ambassador for Freemasonry, but to see that it remains strong and relevant for generations to come. We need to stop acting as if we are paralyzed by a decline in the overall size of our craft, but instead remember the best of Coach Rose's philosophy that "It is not the size of the dog in the fight, but the size of the fight in the dog." ✨



Larry Adamson
Junior Grand Warden

California Lodges

BREAK RECORDS

**In Membership Activity
More degrees conferred
than any year since 1990**

FOR YEARS people have been speaking about the declining membership in Freemasonry. Anyone who has joined over the last six years wouldn't know what all the worrying is about. For the sixth consecutive year, California lodges have conferred more degrees than the prior year. Reporting nearly 4,300 degrees in the membership fiscal year of July 1, 2005 through June 30, 2006, California lodges conferred more degrees than any year since 1990.

Without a doubt, California lodges are busy with degree work. The average lodge conferred 12.5 degrees last year – the highest average since 1985. More Master Masons were raised per lodge than in any year since 1984. The Pass It On membership program sets a goal for each lodge to raise five or more Master Masons. Nearly 100 California lodges reached this goal with 19 raising ten or more. The top three lodges in the number of Master Masons raised were Lemon Grove No. 736, Huntington Beach Lodge No. 380, and South West Lodge No. 283.

Losses during the year also reached important milestones. The number of members suspended for non-payment of dues decreased by 10% over the prior year. Withdrawals were down 11%. The number of deaths was the lowest in more than 50 years continuing a trend in the declining average age of members which dropped to 67.5 years old in 2006. ⚡

Total Membership Activity for 2006

INITIATED	1,857
PASSED	1,234
RAISED	1,205
AFFILIATIONS	494
OUT OF STATE AFFILIATIONS	110
RESTORATIONS	67
TOTAL GAINS	1,976
WITHDRAWALS	891
SUSPENDED	1,073
EXPELLED	17
DECEASED	2,558
TOTAL LOSSES	4,539
TOTAL MEMBERSHIP	68,378
TOTAL DEGREE CONFERRALS	4,296
DEGREES PER LODGE	12.5
MASTER MASON PER LODGE	3.5

On the Level

New tool kit for a successful Masonic information program

every Mason is well aware of our craft's reverence for speaking "on the level" with our brothers. A new tool kit created by the membership development committee of the Grand Lodge assists lodges in doing the same with prospective candidates.

Aptly titled "On the Level," the kit includes ready-to-use tools to help your lodge stage a successful Masonic information event.

A well-planned and executed Masonic information program offers a lodge the opportunity to raise community awareness, correct misconceptions about Masonry, dispel myths surrounding us, and, most importantly, attract new members.

Attracting prospective candidates is the focus of the tools packaged in the new "On the Level" kit. Here's a look at the contents.

"On the Level" presentation

Professionally designed, this PowerPoint presentation provides those not familiar with Masonry a positive yet succinct overview of who we are and what we value. It is an interesting visual presentation of the real story of Masonry and addresses many of the common questions about the fraternity. Lodges may customize two of the slides with information about community programs and lodge history. Depending on the speed of the narration, the presentation will take between 20 and 25 minutes.

"On the Level" presentation script

The script is synchronized with the PowerPoint slides, so it is easy for the narrator to read and follow.

"On the Level" guide

Techniques and tips for planning and staging a Masonic information program are spelled out in this easy-to-use guide, including:

- planning and managing a successful event
- achieving a great turnout, including wives and family
- publicity options and samples
- how to adapt the program to fit your guests and maintain their interest
- sample schedules
- checklist of materials, equipment, and logistical needs
- tips for giving the "On the Level" presentation

Postcard invitation template

This postcard is designed for use as an invitation to your lodge's Masonic information program. Just fill in the details of the event and have them printed.

Flyer/advertisement template

Like the postcard, this tool is designed so the lodge can fill in the event details and have them printed, send to a newspaper as an advertisement, use as an email invitation or flyer, or post on the lodge site.

Press release template

Community newspapers usually will publicize events such as a Masonic information program. This news release template is the standard format accepted by newspapers and other media. Simply complete it with the details of the lodge event.

Masonic information programs are critical to raising awareness of the fraternity and attracting potential new members. "On the Level" is a valuable new tool for staging a successful program and building candidates. Kits may be ordered from the Grand Lodge supply room. ✦

MAINTAINING STEADY

By Terry Mendez



the tone is set from the outset, either consciously or subconsciously, about a candidate's journey with Masonry.

If the lodge makes candidates feel welcome, attached to the lodge and other candidates, and if constant attention is paid to their progress through the degrees, the result is constantly making Master Masons

who are more involved and committed to their lodge.

Several lodges throughout California have consistently maintained a high proportion of candidates who are raised to Master Mason within a year of being accepted. Others have focused on candidates who had fallen behind and remained at the Entered

PROGRESS

How to achieve significant and consistent degree progression

Apprentice level for years. The common tactic used by these lodges is to engage candidates in the lodge and to relentlessly track their progression.

"We give constant attention to candidates and their progress," says James Matthews, master of Fresno Lodge No. 247. His tool is a spreadsheet that tracks memory work completion, written exams, and when the next degree is scheduled. Lodge

"Candidates are matched with coaches who are about the same age, live or work in the same area, and have similar schedules,"

officers and the candidate's coaches receive regular spreadsheet updates. Follow-up is ongoing, with reminders of coaching nights or inquiries about candidates' absence.

Channel Islands Lodge No. 214 in Ventura incorporates candidate tracking in its monthly scheduling.

"The lodge reviews candidate status to determine degrees that need to be conferred in the month being scheduled," says Ray Broomfield, treasurer. A firm degree schedule is set for the next month as well as a tentative schedule for the following month.

A Channel Islands Lodge candidate ready to give his degree proficiency can give it during the weekly degree practice, says Ray. Lodge will be formally opened for the purpose of proficiency so the candidate doesn't have to wait for a stated meeting.

"Candidates lose interest if there's no follow-up," says George Monroe, secretary of Redlands Lodge No. 300. "In the beginning I explain to a candidate what's required and the amount of work involved, then I push to see that it gets done."

Saddleback Laguna Lodge No. 672 has found that thoroughly discussing Masonry with a potential member before a petition is submitted increases his interest and commitment.

"When we receive a request for an application, I set an appointment right away at the man's home instead of mailing the application," says Fred Baribeault, secretary. "I talk about Masonry, explore what might be meaningful to him, and explain the degree process. The objective is to determine if they have the time and interest in Masonry. By doing this before a man takes the time to apply and become a candidate, the expectation of his interest is higher."

Stockton's Morning Star Lodge No. 68 wants their candidates to feel an attachment to the

lodge from the outset. "As soon as they're initiated, we get them in the habit of coming in every Thursday," says Richard Garcia, master. "And we give them something to do right away. If a new member isn't given a responsibility, he doesn't feel involved and that he's making a contribution.."

Maintaining a candidate's connection to the lodge involves more than degree work. Inviting a candidate to participate in community service, social activities, and other lodge events helps generate enthusiasm and motivation.

Stockton Lodge tackled the challenge of candidates who have fallen behind in their progression by contacting them with a plan. If they were still interested in becoming a Mason, they were to meet with candidate coaches every Thursday. Six candidates progressed right away. Dick Garcia, master, says the lodge is exploring doing the same thing in partnership with four other area lodges.

Making candidates feel welcome, providing activities that promote involvement with the lodge and a sense of belonging, tracking their degree work, and making adjustments to the process by trying different ideas are key tactics for successful degree progression. ♦

A Member

By John L. Cooper III, Grand Secretary

In the recitation of our ritual, phrases fall from the tongue with the ease of long-practiced familiarity. This very familiarity is what gives comfort to hearing the ritual spoken correctly, and with clarity and feeling. However, this very familiarity can obscure meaning. That is particularly true of the “charge”—the pithy summary of the teachings of each degree given to the candidate as the last—or almost the last—instruction of the occasion. For those listening to those familiar words, the lateness of the hour, and the anticipation of the food and drink to come, may cause them to pay less than normal attention to the words. And yet there is a powerful message in each of these “charges”—a distillation of important Masonic teachings—which deserves to be pondered.

The charges of the three degrees of Masonry are the membership rules. They are those things which are the indispensable demonstration that a Mason is a member of our ancient and honorable fraternity. With the observance of these rules a man demonstrates to the world at large, and to his brethren, that he is a Mason. Without the observance of these membership rules, he demonstrates the opposite. A dues receipt is evidence that he has paid his annual subscription to his lodge, or holds a lifetime membership therein. But how he lives is his evidence that he is a Mason. What are our membership rules? They are easy to list, when we stop to look carefully at the charges of the three degrees of Masonry. Here is a simple list from the First Degree of Masonry—the “marks of a Mason” by which we will know him to be such:

- ✦ He regards the volume of the Sacred Law as the great light in his profession as a Mason. Freemasonry does not specify that volume; only a man's religion can do that. But we expect him to live a life that demonstrates that he holds his particular faith sacred—the emblem of which is the Sacred Law upon which he was obligated as a Mason.
- ✦ He will show forth that commitment to the sacred by how he talks and acts. “God,” for a Mason, is not an oath uttered in frustration, but the name of the Supreme Being whose love created the world, and who holds all Masons in the hollows of his hands.
- ✦ He will act with his neighbor upon the square. In doing so, he will demonstrate a commitment not only to justice, but to mercy; he will do whatever he can to relieve the distress of others just as he would want them to do the same for him.
- ✦ He will take care of himself physically, mentally, morally, and spiritually. He will use the talents with which God has blessed him to the glory of God, and for the welfare of others.
- ✦ He will be an exemplary citizen. This characteristic comes out not only in loyalty to his country, but by his whole attitude toward the law, which is at the base of peace and good order in society. He isn't a good citizen only when it is convenient. And by never losing sight of the allegiance due to his country, he understands that the burdens of such an allegiance require an active commitment to the daily practice of that citizenship.
- ✦ He practices the “domestic and public virtues.” In other words, he lives his private life as if the whole world had a window into his soul. He is not a hypocrite. His public image is untarnished, and his private life reflects it perfectly.
- ✦ He is faithful to every trust committed to him. He keeps the promises he makes, and especially those solemn promises he entered into when he became a Mason.



of It.

Those “characteristics of a Mason” are all listed in the charge of the Entered Apprentice Degree, and similar ones are found in the Fellow Craft Degree and Master Mason Degree. They are the “marks of membership” in the Masonic fraternity. They are the proof that he is a Mason—far more important than a piece of paper which says that he has contributed financially to his lodge.


Membership in Freemasonry isn't about “joining” a fraternity; it isn't about being in good standing because one's dues are paid; and it isn't about how long one has been such a member. Membership is the living proof that a Mason exhibits each day to his family, his lodge, his community, and his world, that he is a Mason. The “marks of membership” are easy to see. They are what really makes a man a Mason. ✦



By Richard Berman

all in the Family

California Masons pass their traditions to their sons and grandsons



In 1974, internationally renowned psychiatrist Salvador Minuchin noted that “only the family, society’s smallest unit, can change and yet maintain enough continuity to rear children who will not be ‘strangers in a strange land,’ who will be rooted firmly enough to grow and adapt.” Nolan, Ron and Brian Katz—three generations of California Freemasons—prove that the eminent clinician was correct. For the Katzes, being a Mason isn’t just about being part of an international brotherhood of men who share common values, it’s also about carrying on a noble family tradition that is now entering its fourth generation.

Brian, an 18-year-old sophomore at the California Polytechnic State University in San Luis Obispo (better known as Cal Poly), says that the values of Masonry have helped shape his life for several years. “I joined the Castro Valley chapter of DeMolay when I was 12, and I really looked up to the older guys and wanted to be like them. I also looked at my friends who weren’t in DeMolay, and didn’t like some of the things they were doing, like not showing respect to their parents. As I got more involved, I started learning more about Masonry and Masonic values, and when I turned 18 I decided to join.”

Brian Katz’s experience isn’t that different from the thousands of DeMolay members who become Freemasons, except for one distinction: His father and grandfather were on hand to welcome him

Continued on page 14

Family

to the family's fourth generation of Masonry. His father, Worshipful Ron Katz, master of Crow Canyon Lodge No. 551 in Castro Valley, initiated his son into the craft during the summer, and the ceremony was attended by his uncle Gary Katz, a member of Peninsula Lodge No. 168 in San Carlos, and grandfather, Illustrious Sir Nolan Katz, potentate of Asiya Shrine and a dual member of San Francisco Lodge No. 120 and Peninsula Lodge No. 168. On June 22nd, Ron Katz presented his son's first degree lecture in traditional long form to commemorate the special value of this event.

On September 20, 2006—less than a month after his grandson was raised to the third degree—Nolan Katz celebrated his 50th year as a Mason. For him, spreading the light of Freemasonry goes beyond his deep respect for the teachings of the craft. His father Bernard, a noted musician and arranger who worked with Orson Welles and other stars during the golden age of radio, was a member of a Masonic lodge, as were several of his father's cousins, including Mel Blanc, the legendary voice of Bugs Bunny. "As a child, I was around Masons a lot," Nolan Katz explains. "My father was a member, but I really got involved through a third cousin. When I was a boy our family split our time between Los Angeles and Northern California because of my dad's work, and in the summers my family used to go to the Masonic picnic in San Francisco. I became a DeMolay at

16, which was the minimum age to join at that time. I became a Mason as soon as I turned 21."

Just as his family inspired him to become a Freemason in 1956, Nolan's example led his two sons, Gary and Ron, to join the craft when they were old enough. "By the time I came around, the minimum age to join DeMolay was 13, so that's when I became a member," Ron says. "It was such a big part of our family when I was growing up, and it still is today." While serving as master counselor, Ron met Jennifer Bailey, who was a member of Rainbow for Girls. The two married several years later and have two children, Brian and his sister Elizabeth, 16, who is the Hayward Bethel Honored Queen (International Order of Job's Daughters).

Ron, a human resources professional in the Bay Area, says that the most important part of his involvement with the craft has been the heritage of the organization that was passed down to him by his father and other older Masons—and that he is passing down to his children. "It was great for me and my wife when we were growing up, and it was important for us to pass on our love of Masonry to the next generation. I'm very proud of what our son and daughter have accomplished in DeMolay and Job's Daughters. I feel very lucky, especially when I look at other people's kids and don't see them being brought up with the same values and structure that people in my family have grown up with.



I really believe that Freemasonry focuses on some of the most fundamental issues that all of us face today: family, focus on community, and fraternity.”

As is the case with many Masons, personal and professional obligations prevented Ron from being involved with his lodge for several years. When his son Brian became a teenager, however, Ron began the process of reconnecting. “When Brian reached the age where he was eligible to join DeMolay, I really pushed him to become a member. As he got more and more involved, I found myself not only participating in his Masonic education, but also becoming more involved myself.”

While the Katzes stand out because of their four generations of Masons, they are not alone. In fact, several other families in California share this precious bond. In 2004, Jonathan W. Allen was raised to the degree of Master Mason in Lancaster Lodge No. 437 by his grandfather, Robert F. Bardin of Temescal Palms Lodge No. 314. Not only did Allen become the first 18-year-old ever raised to the third degree in the lodge, but his sister is also a third-generation Rainbow Girl.

On June 22, 2006, Downey United Lodge No. 220 in Downey raised Dustin Gaffron Haner III to the degree of Master Mason, with his father and grandfather both participating in the ceremony. That same lodge is also where Raymond E. Davies, his son-in-law Josef G. Zacher and grandson Josef I. R. Zacher are

brothers. In fact, Downey United Lodge is one of only two in California that are known to have two families with three generations of living Masons as members.

The other one is Mount Oso Lodge No. 460 in Tracy. In July 2006, James Routt and his brother Leland Guy Routt became the fourth generation of men in their family to become Masons. Their father, Leland George Routt (a five-time Master) was in

an important part of a family’s legacy, but also a sense of personal obligation to transmit the ancient wisdom and secrets of the original stonemasons to future generations.

The Katz family is living proof of the difficulties that families can face in sustaining interest and involvement in Freemasonry. Brian, the latest in a long line of relatives who have become Masons, says that he was initially reluctant to join

“It was great for me and my wife when we were growing up, and it was important for us to pass on our love of Masonry to the next generation.”

attendance, as was his father, 50-year Mason and Past Master Melvin Leland Routt. Melvin’s father was also a member of Mount Oso Lodge prior to his death in 1935.

So what makes a family a Masonic family? For starters, each generation needs to renew its commitment to the craft. Many non-Masons can point to a grandfather or great uncle who was a member of a Masonic Lodge. Unfortunately, however, a variety of circumstances can easily cause that chain to be broken, and once the son of a Mason makes a decision not to follow in his father’s footsteps, it can be very difficult to entice future members of that family to join. It takes not only a devotion to one’s personal growth as a Mason to ensure that Freemasonry will remain

DeMolay. “My parents made me attend a few meetings, which wasn’t something that I really wanted to do. I don’t think that I would have done it on my own, and I don’t think I would’ve stayed involved had my father and grandfather not pushed me. After a short time, however, I found myself forming a bond with the other members, and I found myself really taking the basic principles to heart. The more I learned about DeMolay, the more I found myself wanting to become a Mason. It is now such an important part of my life.” ✧

Historical TRENDS

By James E. Banta

Reviewing the membership data and trends of the Grand Lodge of California's 156-year history reveals a number of insights into how our fraternity has grown and prospered. With this information, some surprising and not so surprising conclusions may be drawn about the future of Masonry in California.

In the years immediately following the Gold Rush and the formation of the Grand Lodge in 1850, Masons and other men from across the world flocked to California seeking opportunity and wealth. As they began to settle in the newly created towns and cities of the Gold Rush Era, they naturally organized new lodges and admitted new members into their ranks. Throughout much

of the last half of the 19th century, membership trends showed steady growth for the fraternity. Then, beginning in the 1890s and continuing through the Roaring '20s, lodges began to experience unprecedented growth. Membership growth peaked in 1920 following the end of World War I. The Great Depression of the 1930s brought financial hardship and suffering to many. The impact on Freemasonry was just as severe, as withdrawals and suspensions occurred in record numbers and few sought membership in the fraternity. The conclusion of World War II and the economic post-war boom provided a reversal of fortune for Freemasonry in California. Membership growth reached its apex in 1947 and the creation of new lodges peaked for

this time period in 1955. However, this record growth was unsustainable and membership numbers fell below historical averages by the end of the 20th century.

The past five years show a gradual increase in membership growth as a new generation of men seeks purpose, knowledge, opportunity, and brotherhood as Freemasons. Public interest is also renewed with a proliferation of historical research and novels being published, movies produced, and websites created, with Masonry being the focal point. As a result, lodges have conferred more degrees and more Master Masons have been raised over each of the past five years.

While much of the emphasis and interest of the fraternity has focused



The background of the page is a collage. At the top, the lower legs and feet of three people in formal attire are visible against a light blue sky. On the right side, a large red and white rocket is shown launching, with a white booster labeled 'Atlantis' and 'United States' visible. In the bottom left corner, a black and white photograph shows soldiers in uniform pulling on ropes, likely during the raising of the American flag. In the bottom center, the front of a dark blue classic car is shown.

in Masonic Membership

on new members, a review of all of the membership data has also been enlightening. Lodges record membership gains by raising new Master Masons, restoring members who have withdrawn or are suspended, and by admitting members who affiliate from other lodges. Membership losses reflect the total number of members who withdraw, are suspended, or die. All of these membership events are recorded and archived for a fiscal year (July 1 to June 30).

Analysis of the data offers a perspective previously unseen. For instance, it is now known that lodges have raised an average of five Master Masons per year since the inception of the Grand

Lodge and that the average for the past year is four. Affiliations historically average four while the current average is two.

Restorations have remained steady across the 156 years of data at one. The average

number of withdrawals for lodges now and in the past remains at three. With three suspensions per year, lodges are only slightly above the historical average of two. Finally, deaths are down from the record average of eleven in 1996 and are now averaging eight per lodge.

The demographic averages of our membership are also revealing. New Master Masons are usually 39 years old when raised and die having been members for forty-two years. Members seeking a demit (terminal withdrawal) from a lodge are 67 and members for 30 years. Finally, those suspended are 62 years old and have held membership for 27 years. Those seeking a demit or who are suspended represent approximately 2% of the total membership. When taking this data into account, it becomes obvious that men become Freemasons when they are settled in their career and family, and value their membership in the

fraternity, demonstrating a very high degree of loyalty to the craft.

While no one can be certain of the future, extrapolating the data offers a far brighter future for Masonry in California than many have feared based on guesses and pessimism. By 2019, it is projected that there will be 35,000 Masons in 227 lodges with an average membership of 152 across the state. Men will still be joining near age forty and the average age of a Mason will be fifty-four, considerably younger than the current average of sixty-eight.

As public interest continues to rise and men seek meaning and purpose in their lives, the Grand Lodge of California and its constituent lodges could return to historical membership averages while preserving and perpetuating the universally appealing teachings and immutable values of Freemasonry. ✧

Book Reviews

Complete Idiot's Guide to Freemasonry

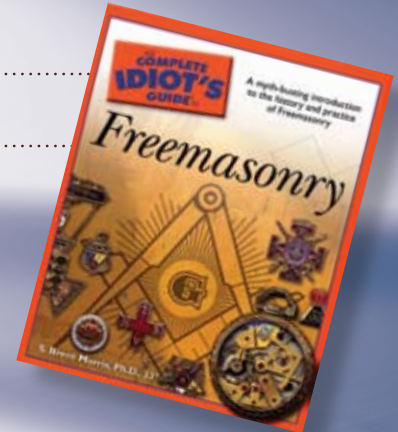
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(Soft cover, 352 pages)

By Adam G. Kendall

Hot on the heels of the successful publication of "Freemasons for Dummies" by Bro. Chris Hodapp, comes the "Complete Idiot's Guide to Freemasonry" by internationally renowned Masonic scholar and author Bro. S. Brent Morris.

The question is, given that one book is for "dummies" and the other for "idiots," which is the better book? While both publishers offer a similar format for the uninformed and uninitiated on a host of subjects of interest, my vote would have to go for Bro. Morris' effort. His writing, research, and overall presentation are above the curve set by "Freemasons for Dummies."

The usual information concerning the craft symbolism, ritual, and information on the appendant and concordant bodies is well presented. Bro. Morris lends his years of insight and research, which will give the reader a firm grasp on important facts. This book is an excellent recommendation for non-Masons and Entered Apprentices. Of special note is that the book includes a bibliography that will inspire the reader to a larger scope of Masonic literature, which is essential for understanding the craft.



The Secret History of Freemasonry

Jeremy Harwood
Lorenz Books
ISBN: 0754816346
Copyright 2006
(Hardcover, 96 pages)

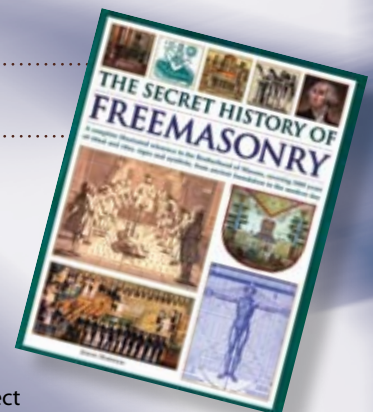
By Adam G. Kendall

"The Secret History of Freemasonry" by Jeremy Harwood begins and ends like many books on Freemasonry. There is an introduction on the ideas and ideals, origins and symbolism, legends and actual history, and an interesting set of chapters on Masonic architecture.

It is certainly worth a read, to enjoy a possible fresh insight on a subject many of us enjoy. However, for the Masonic scholar, none of what the book presents is groundbreaking, and some of it, particularly the chapter on the alleged influence of the Knights Templar on Freemasonry, is, as admitted by the author, highly debatable.

Of special note is the fact that Harwood gives attention to the influences on the craft by the events and philosophies of the Renaissance and the Age of Enlightenment, between which two periods the speculative fraternity was born and took shape.

While thin on material, Harwood's reference book contains many illustrations and photographs not commonly seen in other books on Freemasonry and lends itself well as a light coffee table book that will inspire interest and conversation.



By John Howl

Masonic Homes at Covina

Children's Program making a difference...one family at a time

Two years ago the Board of Trustees of the Masonic Homes adopted a new model of care - the "Circle of Courage" philosophy and core values.

The philosophy promotes belonging and healthy relationships, teaches the mastery of skills, develops self-sufficiency, and encourages the virtue of generosity so that children can be successful, contributing members of society. The results of this new model of care have been impressive.

Each year an average of 12 children enroll in honors and college prep courses. And the children's grade point averages (GPA) says it all:

- Children in the program less than six months had an average GPA of 1.46.
- Children in the program six months to one year had an average GPA of 2.47.
- Children in the program over one year had an average GPA of 3.00.

Today we emphasize family reunification. We actively engage the whole family in therapy. We ensure that the parents and guardians

participate in parenting classes and we provide assistance to families in overcoming obstacles for reunification. Since 2004, we have successfully reunited 25 children with their families. To ensure their long-term success, we currently serve 71 families through our Family Resource Center, which provides counseling and other supportive services. The lives that have been transformed are the most important story.

- Carl began his fourth year at CSU-Fresno, where his major is psychology.
- Lauren will enter Azusa Pacific University and major in psychology and deaf studies.
- Austin will enter Citrus College and major in interior design.
- Cynthia will attend Long Beach City College to complete her general education as she pursues a degree in veterinarian medical studies.

Together with the Mason in California we have developed a model of care that is Making a Difference... One Family at a Time. ✧

Masonic Senior **Living** Communities

By Deborah E. Stebbins

Our Brethren... Our Future



As most of you are aware, the Masonic Homes of California are exploring the creation of two new Masonic Senior Living Communities on our existing campuses. Acacia Creek at Covina and Acacia Creek at Union City are both planned as Continuing Care Retirement Communities (CCRCs). A Continuing Care Retirement Community is an active senior community offering a wide variety of amenities, activities, and services that also offers residents the peace of mind that comes from knowing that all levels of care are available, should the need arise.


EXCITEMENT IS GROWING

Since April, we have been conducting a series of informational sessions across the state about the proposed projects. During these sessions, we provide more detail on the layout, services and programs offered through these Masonic senior communities. Those interested in becoming a Founder make a \$1,000 fully refundable deposit. With this deposit, a Founder

enjoys the benefits of the Founder Opportunity Plan—benefits that others who wait will not receive.

Founders are among the first to select the home of their choice. They are also offered a 100% refundable entrance fee, which means that when they leave the community for any reason, 100% of their entrance fee is refunded to them or to their families. In addition, we offer Founders special health care discounts and free days of service to use when they become a resident. We also offer complimentary move-in assistance. And Founders are invited to special Founder events—dinners, BBQs, special events—in which they are given the opportunity to meet their future neighbors.

At the time of this writing (July), we have 165 Founders for the Acacia Creek projects. In fact, demand continues to grow at an unprecedented rate. This is gratifying to the Board of Trustees, for we are now assured that we are providing a service that meets the membership's needs. All of our initial



planning and research suggested these communities were needed and desired by our fraternity—and the pace of our sales has affirmed these assumptions.

MEET SOME FOUNDERS— ACACIA CREEK AT COVINA

Acacia Creek at Covina will be nestled on the Masonic Homes of California Covina campus—33 acres of natural beauty. This lovely setting is one of the main reasons the Kussners have become the very first Founders of Acacia Creek at Covina.

“We decided to move to Acacia Creek,” explains Clarence, “because we’d like to know what it’s like to wake up to the sound of birds and rustling trees, rather than the sound of traffic! After living in Culver City for 30 years, I really like the open spaces.”

Renee agrees, “I especially like the landscape, the trees, flowers, green grass, and the birds.”

Because of the additional services included in the Continuing Care model, the Kussners will have more free time to wander the grounds and participate in the activities they enjoy. “I like the fact that everything is maintained for me,” says Clarence. “I won’t have to take out a hammer, a saw, or a screwdriver like I do now. I really enjoy a leisurely lifestyle. We like to travel. We’re active. I like to play golf, read, and play pool. I’m also very involved in the lodge and I

expect to do the same things here.”

“I like the fact that they have social programs we each can do,” adds Renee. “I can enjoy knitting, sewing, decorating hats—all kinds of crafts. And the food is very good. I won’t have to cook. I won’t even have to change the sheets!”

Living in a Masonic community of fellow friends was also important to the Kussners. “The nice thing about being with other Masons is we have a common bond,” says Clarence. “When we meet someone new, we can always start out from a position of trust, knowing that they’ve undertaken the same obligations. And we’re not wallflowers; we like to mix.”

Why were the Kussners the first to sign up to live at Acacia Creek at Covina? Clarence explains, “I think Acacia Creek is a good project, a good concept. The idea that Masons can, like us, leave a very congested area in Los Angeles and have an opportunity to come out to something like this—you really have to look at this opportunity very seriously. And though we’re not ready for anything like a nursing home right now, we realize that everything we might need is right in one spot.”

To learn more, call
626/646-2961 or 800/ 801-9958.

FOUNDERS AT ACACIA CREEK AT UNION CITY

More and more, people are coming into Continuing Care

Retirement Communities earlier in life because of the lifestyle they offer, and Acacia Creek is no exception. Billy Uber explains why they acted now to become the first Acacia Creek at Union City Founders: “We were looking ahead five to ten years before coming into a home—but I’d visited here several times, and I know that the majority of people who try to come wait too late. A CCRC is a place where you come to live, and the younger you are, the more there is to do up here. When you take all the hassles away and you have nothing to worry about, living well is much easier.”

“We also felt like we needed to do this now,” says Virginia, “because if we were to wait we may not get a place here, and we were very ready to make a move.”

Billy continues, “The Continuing Care aspect is what looked best to us, because even if we don’t want to admit it, we aren’t getting any younger. Being taken care of is a very easy way to retire. You don’t have to worry about anything. You just enjoy your life. It’s more than anyone could hope for ... Acacia Creek is also very attractive, affordable and livable,” continues Billy. “The campus is huge and we know that Acacia Creek at Union City will be a very nice place to live.”

To learn more, call
510/429-6479 or 888/553-7555. ♦

NEWS

YOU CAN USE



MASONIC HOMES WEBSITE ▶

Visit www.masonichome.org to read about the latest developments in the Homes, initiate an application, download recent mailings, and learn all about the programs and services we provide.



CHILDREN'S SERVICES ▶

For information on our children's program or to find out how to sponsor a child in need, please contact:

Masonic Home for Children
1650 Old Badillo Street
Covina, CA 91722
626/251-2226
mespinoza@mhccov.org



COMMUNICATIONS ▶

The Masonic Homes have speakers available to come to your lodge or function to speak about the services available through the Homes and other issues related to aging. For more information, please contact the communications office at **510/675-1245** or **communications@mhccuc.org**. We look forward to hearing from you!

MASONIC OUTREACH SERVICES (MOS) ▶

We know that many of our constituents prefer to live out their lives in their own homes or home communities. Yet many need help coping with the challenges and issues associated with aging. In response, the Masonic Homes of California have expanded the Masonic Outreach Services (MOS) program to better meet the needs of our elderly constituents who wish to remain in their own home or community.

Our goal is to provide our fraternal family members access to the services and resources they need to stay healthy and safe in their own

homes or in retirement facilities in their home communities.

Our services include:

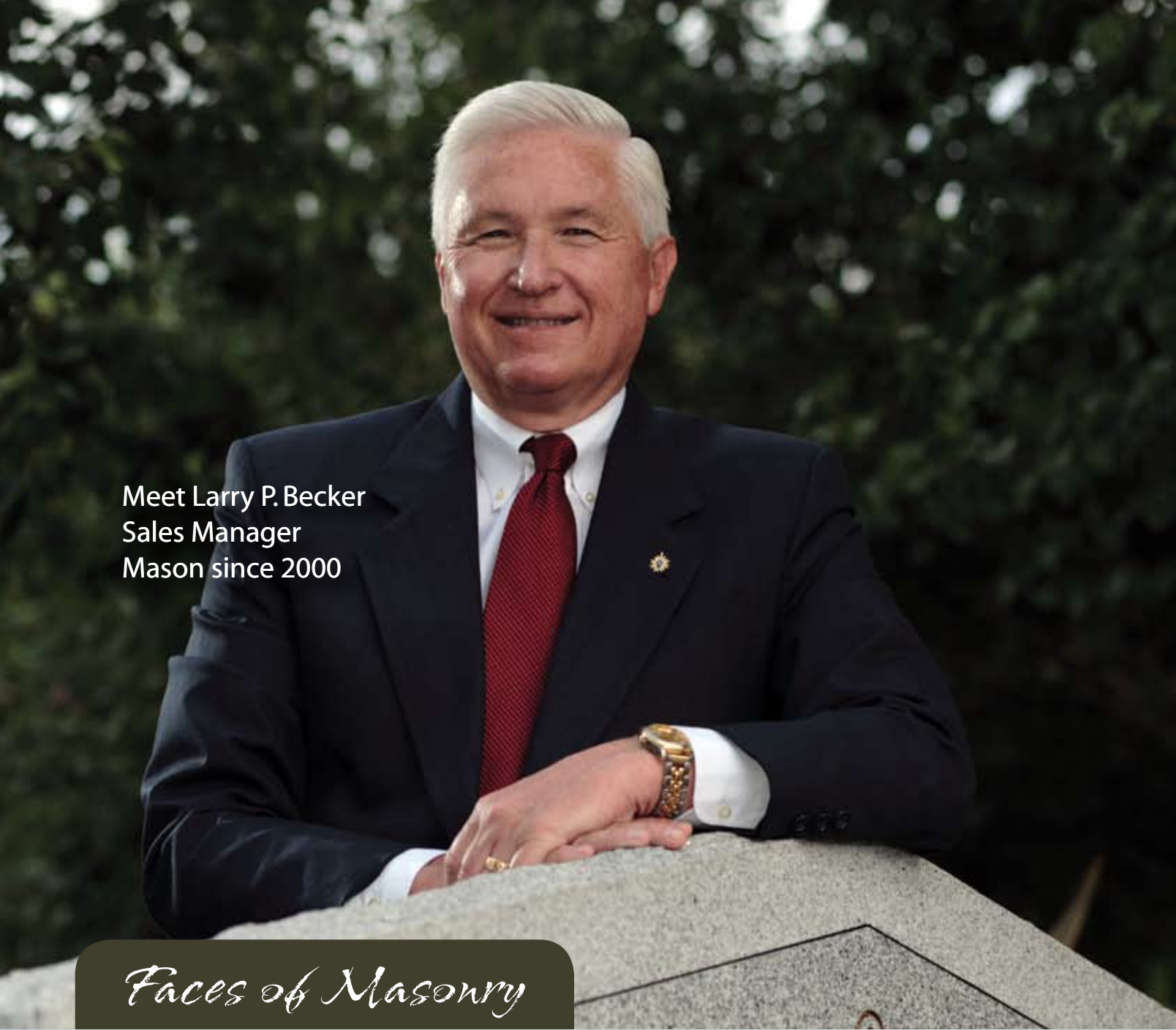
- Ongoing financial and care support for those with demonstrated need
- Interim financial and care support for those on the waiting list for the Masonic Homes of California
- Information and referrals to community-based senior services providers across California

For more information on MOS, please contact us at: **888/466-3642 (888/HOME MHC)** or **intake@mhccuc.org**

Masonic Homes of California invite the fraternal family to special informative events about Acacia Creek—Masonic Senior Living Communities ▶

Masonic Homes of California is conducting a series of informational sessions across California to introduce the fraternal family to proposed new Masonic Senior Living Communities—Acacia Creek at Covina and Acacia Creek At Union City.

The Acacia Creek communities are both planned as Continuing Care Retirement Communities (CCRCs) for California Master Masons, their wives, widows, and mothers. These communities are planned for development on the existing Masonic Homes of California Covina and Union City campuses, sharing their beauty and benefits. And, because it is a Continuing Care Retirement Community, residents of Acacia Creek at Covina will enjoy additional amenities, services, and on-site health care.

A portrait of Larry P. Becker, a man with white hair, wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and red tie. He is smiling and has his hands clasped on a stone ledge. A small Masonic pin is visible on his lapel, and he is wearing a gold watch and a ring.

Meet Larry P. Becker
Sales Manager
Mason since 2000

Faces of Masonry

For Larry Becker, Masonry “has reinforced in me the key core values that we should hold dear – God, Family and Country” he says. Larry feels that “by being around other Masons and following the basic teachings of Masonry, I can improve the quality of not only my life, but hopefully I can set a positive example for others to emulate.” Larry is currently serving as Master of Orinda Lodge No. 122 in Orinda.

Masonry has helped Larry to focus on what is important to him. “Understanding that it takes just one of us to motivate another and then another to truly make

a difference. Our founding fathers and some of the century’s greatest leaders were Masons who gave of themselves and made a difference. I realize it is up to us to carry on this tradition” he says.

Larry, 56, lives in San Ramon with his wife, Debbie, and has two children, Lauren, and Elliot. He is the West Coast Manager for Supply Sanitation Systems, LLC.



Masons of California



MASONS
OF CALIFORNIA

*making the world
a better place.*



The screenshot shows the website's header with the logo and tagline. Below is a navigation bar with links: join, about, contribute, news, events, contact. The main content area is divided into two columns. The left column has a sidebar with links: members center, leadership development, membership development, masonic education, fraternal support, member resources, community programs, children's home, child identification, scholarship, teacher of the year, teacher training, resources, lodge locator, glossary, related organizations, give online, and send to a friend. The right column is titled 'current news' and features two articles. The first article is titled 'Prince Hall Past Grand Master Speaks at Sacramento Lodge of Instruction' and mentions George Blue, past grand master of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of California, Inc., as the guest speaker. The second article is titled 'Join the Grand Master Summer in New England' and mentions Fred Sorabot, grand master of the California and their families, as the speaker. The date 'Mar 26, 2006' is visible at the bottom of the news section.

Be a Hero

The Office of Philanthropy hopes that you will watch the following presentation on our website to gain a better understanding of how valuable your support is to so many.



Be a Hero Movie

Click this button
on the home page

www.freemason.org



Grand Lodge F & AM of California
1111 California Street
San Francisco, California 94108

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