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For sometime people have pondered whether the flapping of butterflies in Brazil would cause a tornado in Texas. What we know for sure is that a gift to Masonic philanthropy today will make a difference for centuries. In our feature story of this issue, read how the work of one Mason who lived in the 19th century is making a difference two centuries later. Lauren Casterson entered college this fall at the University of San Francisco with assistance from C.E. Towne Scholarship fund. She never met Charles Towne, the Santa Cruz Mason for whom the fund is named, but she will forever be a part of his legacy.

### FOR MORE ARTICLES OF INTEREST, CHECK OUT CALIFORNIA FREEMASON ONLINE AT WWW.FREEMASON.ORG



in california Ralph Herbold has been selected as the 2007 Mason of the Year. Learn more about his tireless contributions to the craft.



**10** masonic education

Have you ever wondered who Hiram Abiff was? Join John Cooper on a journey through biblical times as we try to learn who this widow's son really was.



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**9 lodge spotlight** Enjoy the story of one man's love

Enjoy the story of one man's love of education and how it has helped bring Menifee Valley Lodge and its local community closer together.



## Masons Make a Difference

) e've all heard the adage, "What have you done for me lately?" I would put it to each of us to ask the guestion,"What have my lodge and I done lately for our neighbors in the community?" As Masons, we CAN make a difference. For many of our craft, this is a normal part of our daily lives. But for some of us, this practice of helping one another was left at the altar when we took our obligation. In this issue, you will read many accounts of lodges and individuals who are truly making a difference. Not only as Masons, but also as citizens, helping those less fortunate is not just something that is nice to do, it is a duty we owe to our fellow man. We should all be proud of the great philanthropic work being accomplished by our craft. And we are quick to point out to non-Masons that Masons throughout our country dispensed over \$2 million a day in charitable activity. But we are reminded that most of those dollars come from huge endowments that have grown because of the efforts of our predecessors. We must ensure that we don't dishonor them by sitting on our laurels and reaping the accolades for work that was accomplished by someone else. Let us all instead honor their legacy by doing our part to enhance their efforts.

But making a difference as Masons is not only raising money. There is great value in volunteering in some facet of the community. Many lodges have become engaged in the community by cleaning up parks and roadsides and by participating in schools and reading to young children or acting as a judge in a science fair, while still others have created care packages to help the homeless.

Masons make themselves known by certain signs, words, and tokens and by wearing pins and displaying logos. But more importantly, Masons make themselves known by their deeds.

Each one of us, should ask, "What are our lodges doing and how can I help?" Are we asking whether community involvement and chartable work is part of our lodge's strategic plan? If not, shame on us. Demand that your lodge be engaged, and be the first one in line to volunteer your time and talents. Masons CAN make a difference. Through our Grand Lodge programs, thousands of children have been served by our Child ID program, and thousands more have been helped because teachers have been shown how to recognize children at risk through the Masonic Student Assistance Program (MSAP). As a trustee of the Masonic Homes, I have seen firsthand the care that has been given to many of our seniors and kids either through residency or through Masonic outreach. Our foundation's scholarship program takes a back seat to no one, as millions of dollars have been dispersed to give our youth an opportunity to learn, and to grow into the future citizens who will have the means to be the next generation of givers.

As secretary of my lodge, I had an occasion to speak to the sister of one of our members. Her brother has been serving in Irag for the last 15 months. I got his e-mail from her and wrote a short note just to say thank you for his service and to see if there was anything the lodge could do to make his life just a little bit more comfortable. His response surprised me, as he spoke about the children of Iraq and that many couldn't afford a single pair of shoes. His unit was making a difference by collecting shoes, in a program called "Operation Good Shoes." Although facing the possibility of making the ultimate sacrifice, he asked nothing for himself but asked the lodge to help in collecting shoes for children. His response did not surprise me, because he is a Mason, and that is what Masonry teaches. The lodge responded, as well as numerous other brothers and their wives around the state who heard of our project and wanted to help. To date, we have collected almost 2,000 pairs. Masons DO make a difference.

that is what Masonry teaches. The lodge responded, as well as numerous other brothers and their wives around the state who heard of our project and wanted to help. To date, we have collected almost 2,000 pairs. Masons DO make a difference. How are you making a difference? Are you engaged? Are you making yourself known by your daily activities? I

Kenneth G. Nagel Junior Grand Warden

## Grand Lodge Pays Tribute to by Richard Berman an Exceptional Mason

Ralph Herbold named Mason of the Year

hroughout their lives, many Masons do extraordinary things to contribute to the betterment of humanity and to promote the values and principles of the craft. In recognition of their exceptional work, each year Masonic lodges and organizations bestow numerous awards on brothers who have distinguished themselves by their actions and accomplishments. One accolade is considered so special that it is rarely given out. In fact, 2007 marks only the ninth time in more than 150 years that the Grand Lodge of California has named a Mason of the Year.

This year's recipient is Ralph A. Herbold, a member of Golden Trowel Norwalk Lodge No. 273 in Norwalk and Solomon's Staircase Lodge No. 357 in Buena Park. Today, at the age of 92, Herbold lives in Oregon, but his lasting legacy to the brotherhood of Freemasonry is his work with the Southern California Research Lodge (SCRL), an entity that traces its roots back to 1951, when Grand Master Arthur Paulsen proposed legislation to create Masonic bodies dedicated to expanding education beyond "matters of symbolism, allegory, and kindred subjects." These so-called research lodges would exist under the supervision of the Grand Lodge and would "not confer degrees or perform many duties of ordinary lodges." By the end of the decade there were four such organizations in the state. While many Masons, including a number of past Grand Masters, were instrumental in the growth of these lodges, the contributions of Ralph Herbold (who served as Master of the SCRL in 1963) fundamentally changed the face of Masonry in California.

While the Southern California Research Lodge had been publishing its own documents for several years, by 1966 many leaders in the Grand Lodge were uncomfortable with its approach; the SCRL was slated to be dissolved, and four of its leaders were summoned to San Francisco for a meeting. Although the lodge survived the crisis (thanks to Deputy Grand Master John F. Porter), it wasn't until 1975 that Grand Master John R. Roberts, Jr. lifted restrictions on its ability to publish and distribute its materials. Four years later the SCRL successfully petitioned the Grand Lodge to allow members of

The contributions of Ralph Herbold (who served as Master of the SCRL in 1963) fundamentally changed the face of Masonry in California.

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grand lodges in other jurisdictions to apply for membership, and by 1995 it was the largest regularly chartered research lodge in the United States, with members in all 50 states and 30 foreign countries.

A large part of this success is the direct result of Ralph Herbold's hard work over a period of more than 40 years. In the early 1960s Herbold started publishing the SCRL newsletter, which is currently approaching its 1,000th edition, and also initiated correspondence programs to reach Masons in more than 20 nations. Starting in 1980 the SCRL began selling Masonic books, with Herbold handling inventory and distribution until his retirement in 1994, and in the mid-1980s the lodge started presenting copies of "The Craft And Its Symbols" to candidates in their respective lodges. To date, more than 10,000 books have been presented.

### IN CALIFORNIA



## ANNUAL FUND PROGRAMS

## THE MANY FACES

by Richard Berman



n the early 20th century the Grand Lodge of California adopted a require-ment for every new Mason in the state to make a donation to support the Masonic Homes as part of his initiation. Not only did this contribution serve a practical purpose, but it also reinforced the core Masonic value of providing fraternal support. Today, more than 90 years later, the terms of the donation haven't changed: Masons give \$25 with their applications.

"Obviously, that was a lot of money back then," says Douglas Ismail, Executive Vice President of the California Masonic Foundation and Director of Masonic Philanthropy for the Masonic Grand Lodge of California. In fact, a gift of \$25 in 1915 is the equivalent of nearly \$300 today, but Ismail says it still serves the same purpose. "The gift made by a Mason when he becomes a brother sets the stage for a lifetime of supporting vulnerable Masons and their families, as well as our ongoing mission."

While the financial impact of a Mason's initial \$25 donation may have diminished over time, Masons still provide significant support through gifts to Masonic Outreach Services (provided by the Masonic

Homes of California) and Masonic Education and Leadership Training (provided by the California Masonic Foundation), the two main annual fund programs run by the Grand Lodge. In the fiscal year that concluded on June 30, 2007, donations from individual Masons, lodges, and foundations totaled "Gifts to Masonic Outreach Services are used for everything from paying for care for Alzheimer's patients—which can run into the thousands of dollars a month—to providing non-financial case management support for Masons or their widows who may need help accessing local services or care networks," Ismail says. "This really is Masonic relief at its most basic level, and this generous charitable support changes people's lives. Every Mason should realize that a gift made today will help his brothers today or in the future. It's really a safety net for all of us."

The other program supported by the annual giving effort is Masonic Education and Leadership Training, which focuses on providing practical instruction to Masons who are already in the officer line and want to improve their knowledge and skills. Although training has long been a mainstay of the Masonic tradition, the focus on this aspect of education in the craft has become a top priority of the Grand Lodge in the last several years.

> Ismail says that "We are training more brethren than ever before, including more than just secretaries and wardens. One of the goals for Masonry is for every member to have an opportunity to lead, either in his lodge or in his community, and our educational programs help us fulfill

that promise. We're training people to become leaders in many aspects of the craft, and support from Masons is ensuring that we will have strong, vibrant leadership for years to come."

If you have questions about annual giving, please call the Masonic Grand Lodge of California Office of Philanthropy at **415/292-9117.** 

Give online at www.freemason.org &

"Every Mason should realize that a gift made today will help his brothers today or in the future. It's really a safety net for all of us."

more than \$1.3 million, not counting planned or deferred gifts.

Masonic Outreach Services (MOS) is the direct descendant of the Grand Lodge's earliest relief programs for Masons and their families. Formally established in the late 1990s as a replacement for an earlier entity called Non-Resident Assistance, MOS provides a full continuum of care for people who need financial support and other assistance.

## Mason on a Mission Robert Lavy Heads South of the Border

A common refrain in the world of social activism is "think globally, act locally." For Robert Lavy, Jr., Past Master of Enterprise Lodge No. 70 in Yuba City, a more appropriate motto might be "think globally, act globally." While Bob is active in his community about 40 miles north of Sacramento, for the last five years he has led a group trip of local high school students south of the border to build homes in rural Tecate, Mexico.

While spending spring break in Mexico might seem

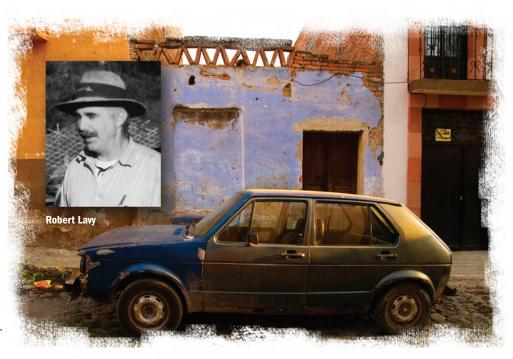
### All work is done by hand: There is usually no access to electricity.

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like a week of fun in the sun for American teenagers, the students that accompany Lavy as part of the yearly Yuba-Sutter Mexico Mission are in Tecate to work. Although the city of 60,000 residents is only 40 miles from San Diego, it is really a world away. Many residents live in substandard conditions and do not even have houses to live in. That is where Lavy and his team play a vital role in helping improve conditions in this border town.

As a site foreman, Bob oversees the construction of simple one-room houses that consist of a cement slab foundation, four stucco walls, two



windows, and a door. There is no running water and the bathroom is outside. After a long drive from Yuba City to Tecate, the students set up a tent city to live in while they work. For the next four days they work full days to mix and pour cement, frame, roof, and stucco the houses. All work is done by hand: There is usually no access to electricity.

For some of the youth, this trip is nothing like they have experienced before; many have never even left Yuba City. For the adults, the trip is a way for them to teach the next generation about what life is like for the very poor, and that to give is the reward. The annual trip takes a year or more to plan, and during the 51 weeks a year when Bob is not in Mexico he helps with car washes, BBQs, and other fundraisers to defray the costs of food, insurance, and gear. He feels that the trip is a way for local high school youth to experience life outside their small world of this local town.

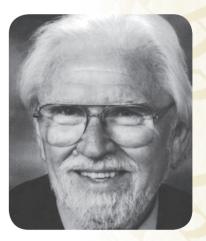
Lavy served as master of Enterprise Lodge in 2006, and is now serving a second term as senior deacon. Bob also assists with Liberty Chapter, Order of DeMolay, as ritual advisor, and is a past master councilor, past divisional master councilor, and holds the Chevalier Degree. Lavy's wife of 25 years, Tina, is a past honored queen of Job's Daughters; their son Anthony is a member of DeMolay, and their daughter Danielle is a member of both Rainbow for Girls and Job's Daughters, and is current princess of Liberty Chapter, DeMolay. ☆ I n 1973, a recently retired school principal in Riverside County named Vick Knight, Jr. became an Entered Apprentice Mason. However, it wasn't until 1993 that he was raised as a Master Mason. In 2006, nearly 15 years after finally reaching the third degree, Knight won the Hiram Award from Menifee Valley Lodge No. 289 in Sun City—a feat made even more astonishing by the fact that he has never served as an officer in his lodge. "I guess you could say that my involvement as a Mason has been pretty unconventional," he explains.

In fact, many of the accomplishments in Young's life do not follow a linear script. After splitting his childhood between New York and Hollywood (his father was the manager for singer/actor Eddie Cantor), Young joined the classroom, the "educational bug" never left Knight's blood. Along with fellow Mason Don Young (who was featured in the fall 2003 issue of "California Freemason"), he has spent the last decade and a half working to improve education in his adopted hometown of Lake Elsinore. In the early 1990s—right around the time that he says he "finally got around to becoming a Master Mason"—Knight was elected to the local school board, where he served for 13 years before being elected to the county school board.

In 2006, Riverside County opened the new \$80 million Lakeside High School, and the on-campus library was

named in his honor. In fact, Knight donated several hundred books from his

## Head of the Class Vick Knight Makes Education a Life-Long Cause



United States Navy. After leaving the service he attended the University of Southern California, where he later received his doctorate in education, and took a job as an elementary school teacher upon graduation. "I taught for four years and then became a principal. A few years after that I moved to middle school, and was then a high school principal."

### I guess you could say that my involvement as a Mason has been pretty unconventional,"

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After retiring in the early 1970s, Young took a job as the fundraising director for Children's Hospital of Orange County (CHOC), which he held for a decade. He has also found time to write 26 books, ranging from awardwinning science textbooks to a well-regarded biography of American Revolutionary War hero Haym Salomon.

Despite all of his accomplishments outside of the

personal collection to help the new library get started. In

September 2007, members of Menifee Valley Lodge were joined in Lake Elsinore by Grand Master Melvyn Stein for a Masonic cornerstone ceremony to celebrate the opening of Earl Warren Elementary School, which is named for the former Supreme Court chief justice and California governor who also served as Grand Master of the Grand Lodge in the 1930s.

For the last decade Knight has hosted the Lodge Constitutional program for Lodge No. 289. This event features a "game show" format in which teams from local high schools are quizzed on their knowledge of the United States Constitution and major decisions made by the Supreme Court. Knight hopes to expand the event throughout the state of California and beyond in the next few years. In addition to his Masonic activities and involvement with local schools, Knight has been the National Director for the United States Junior Chamber of Commerce; President of the Friends of the University of California, Irvine Library; and has held several other community-leadership positions. ☆ John L. Cooper III, Grand Secretary



The radio version of the "Lone Ranger" may remember the famous tag line at the end of almost every show: "Who was that masked man?" The question was always asked by someone who had been rescued from dire circumstances by the "Lone Ranger"—whose identity was kept a closely guarded secret from those he helped. In a similar way, Masons may ask, "Who was Hiram Abiff?" We know a little about him from our Masonic degrees—but not a lot. In fact, we do not know much more about where he came from and how he got to his position of prominence in Masonry than we know about where the Lone Ranger came from, and how he got to be the famous rescuer of those in trouble on the Western frontier.



The name Hiram first appears in the Bible in the Book of First Kings. In chapter seven we find that "Now King Solomon invited and received Hiram from Tyre. He was the son of a widow of the tribe of Naphtali, whose father, a man of Tyre, had been an artisan in bronze; he was full of skill, intelligence, and knowledge in working bronze. He came to King Solomon, and did all his work." He is not called Hiram Abiff in this passage, and it is only in the Book of Second Chronicles that we learn that his name was Abiff (or something similar to that), and that he was sent to King Solomon by another Hiram— King Hiram of Tyre. Here is what is written in Second Chronicles 2:11–14: "Then King Hiram of Tyre, answered in a letter that he sent to Solomon, 'I have dispatched Huram-abi, a skilled artisan, endowed with understanding, the son of one of the Danite women, his father a Tyrian. He is trained to work in gold, silver, bronze, iron, stone, and wood, and in purple, blue, and crimson fabrics and fine linen, and to do all sorts of engraving and execute any design that may be assigned to him, with your artisans, the artisans of my lord, your father David.'"

From these meager biblical sources, the Masonic legend of Hiram Abiff has been created. There is no mention in the Bible that he was the Architect of King Solomon's Temple. That is a Masonic invention . However, he is depicted as a skilled worker in various media—metal, wood, and stone, as well as fabrics. He was also an engraver, and good at artistic designs. It was from these references that he was transformed in our legend to become the Architect of the Temple at Jerusalem, "well skilled in arts and sciences." It looks as if we took an ordinary craftsman and made him into something else. Or did we? There is another story here that needs to be told.

Freemasonry teaches by symbol and allegory. The concept of a "symbol" is easy; the concept of an "allegory" is more difficult. We it is about someone who takes the talents that God has given him, and makes a difference. In our allegory, Hiram Abiff is a man "endowed with understanding" to transform the ordinary into the extraordinary. We depict him as someone who knew how to take common stone and craft it into a magnificent building perhaps the most magnificent that has ever been built. He is a man "full of skill, intelligence, and knowledge" (the words from the Bible) who

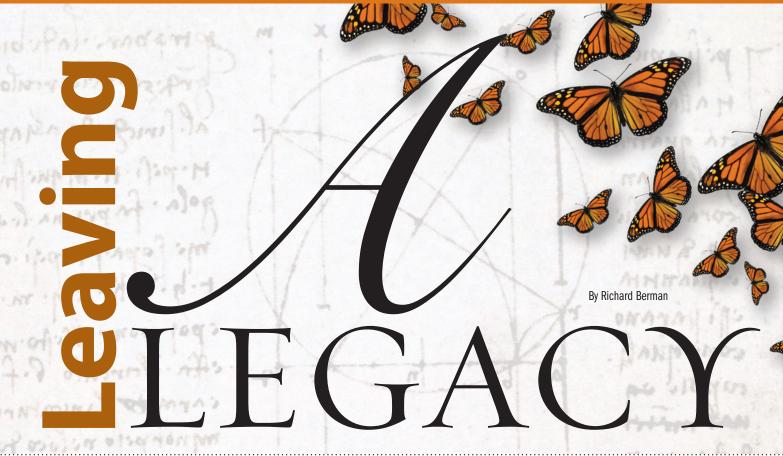
The Legend of Hiram Abiff is an allegory. It is not about a real human being who was the Architect of the Temple, even though the story is based on the real "Hiram Abiff" found in the Bible.

can all understand the symbol of the Twenty-Four Inch Gauge. That measuring tool, used by stonemasons to measure and lay out their work, represents time-the irreducible minimum of 24 hours which is given to each of us every day. We can have no more, and we have no less. What we do with those 24 hours makes a difference, and Freemasonry helps us to understand why it is important for God, and our family, to get a share of that time, as well as "our usual vocations," and our "refreshment and repose."

The Legend of Hiram Abiff is an allegory. It is not about a real human being who was the Architect of the Temple, even though the story is based on the real "Hiram Abiff" found in the Bible. Instead, could build for eternity. He is a man whose devotion to duty, and to the promises he has made, make him an example worthy of all emulation. We remind the newly raised Master Mason that Hiram Abiff is someone to imitate, and that, therefore, he should never let any motive cause him to swerve from his duty, violate his vows, or betray a trust. If he "gets it," then, like Hiram Abiff, he will be someone who will make a difference.

Hiram Abiff is pictured in our allegory as a man and a Mason who made a difference—not because of what he possessed, but because of what he did with that which he possessed. You can do that, too, with what you possess. You, too, can make a difference—just like Hiram Abiff!

Who was Hiram Abiff? He was someone who made a difference. 🚸



## Charles Towne's Gift Makes a Lasting Mark for California Students

As the old saying goes, there are no coincidences in life. For mathematicians specializing in the somewhat obscure discipline of chaos theory, however, clichés aren't enough: They want evidence that seemingly unrelated events are actually intertwined. Perhaps the best-known illustration of this is the "butterfly effect," which states that something as seemingly insignificant as a tiny movement of air might set off a chain of atmospheric conditions that could eventually cause major storms on the other side of the world. The concept gained a popular foothold in the early 1970s when meteorologist Edward Lorenz del-ivered a paper entitled "Does the flap of a butterfly's wings in Brazil set off a tornado in Texas?" The butterfly effect may have its roots in higher mathematics, but its basic principle—cause and effect—has long been a staple of Freemasonry, where good deeds compound themselves over time to make the world a better place. When Charles E. Towne was raised as a Master Mason in Santa Cruz Lodge No. 38 on September 7, 1911, a chain of events was set in motion that would ultimately have a profound effect on Lauren Casterson, an 18-year-old freshman at the University of San Francisco (USF).

Charles Towne was born in Santa Cruz, California, and made his living as a grocer before becoming a banker. He eventually became a director at The People's Bank, and later became president of Farmers and Merchants Bank, which had acquired People's in 1914 before itself being acquired by Wells Fargo. At the time of his death in 1953, he had been a Mason for 42 years. He left his entire estate to his wife, Rita, who later married George Otto Kusch, who was himself a Mason for more than 50 years.

Lauren Casterson is a 2007 recipient of the C.E. Towne scholarship. She is a freshman at the University of San Francisco.

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When Rita Kusch died in 1995, at the age of 94, she had been a member in good standing of Eastern Star Santa Cruz-Redwood Chapter No. 273 for 55 years. In her will, she made bequests of \$1,000 to several Because the C.E. Towne Scholarship Fund, which is earmarked for graduating high school seniors who will attend an accredited four-year institution of higher learning, is tied to the

The bulk of her estate—\$7 million in stocks formerly owned by her first husband, Charles Towne, which had not been touched in more than 40 years—was used to create the C.E. Towne Scholarship in his honor.

charities, including the Eastern Star Home for the Aged and the Shriners Hospital for Children. The bulk of her estate—\$7 million in stocks formerly owned by her first husband, Charles Towne, which had not been touched in more than 40 years—was used to create the C.E. Towne Scholarship in his honor. Lauren Casterson, a 2007 graduate of Aptos High School who was born nearly four decades after Towne passed away, was one of the beneficiaries of his family's generosity.

"The scholarship has been a real help for our family," says Casterson, who moved to the USF campus in August and plans to study environmental studies. "I have an older sister in school and a twin brother, so my parents were faced with having three kids in college at the same time. Being able to find outside assistance was important." performance of investments, the number of gifts varies year to year. According to Doug Ismail, Executive Vice President of the California Masonic Foundation and Director of Masonic Philanthropy for the Masonic Grand Lodge of California, 40 students in California received scholarships this year.

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This legacy is the result of the generosity of one brother and his family, and it exemplifies the Masonic way of paying it forward."

"The scholarships are for \$10,000 a year, renewable for four years. The students who were selected are going to great schools including Berkeley,

24 La

Stanford, Yale, Harvard, Brown, Occidental, UCLA, and Cornell. This legacy is the result of the generosity of one brother and his family, and it exemplifies the Masonic way of paying it forward."

Casterson says that she found out about the scholarship opportunity almost by accident. "My dad has been a Mason for the last three or four years, and one day he mentioned that he thought there might be some help available through his lodge. I went online and did a bit of research and found the C.E. Towne Scholarship. I applied and got a call back from that Grand Lodge that I was a finalist. I wrote several essays and sent in a bunch of other material. After that I did

My dad has been a Mason for the last three or four years, and one day he mentioned that he thought there might be some help available through his lodge. I went online and did a bit of research and found the C.E. Towne Scholarship.

an in-person interview in the spring and was lucky enough to get it." In addition to the Towne Scholarship (which could be worth as much as \$40,000 over the course of her education), Casterson also received \$1,000 from her father's lodge (Confidence Lodge No. 110 in Soquel), a grant from USF, and several smaller one-year scholarships from her high school.

It is not hard to see why. She was a class officer for four years, and served as president of her senior class. She was also on the varsity track and field team, where she specialized in the long jump and triple jump, and says she "also ran the 400, if necessary." Casterson was also an active member of her school's ecology and environmental club for all four years of high school,

2+4

and was president in her junior and senior years. After graduating from Aptos in June, she taught swimming and babysat to raise extra money for school.

As might be expected, the application and evaluation process for the C.E. Towne Scholarship is highly competitive. The most important element is academic performance: Students need to have at least a B average, although most of the winners have far higher grade point averages. Financial need is also strongly considered, and all finalists have to submit essays highlighting why they need the scholarship and how they plan to use it. Additional weighting is also given to relatives of Masons and members of Masonic youth groups, including DeMolay, Job's Daughters, and Rainbow for Girls. Casterson has links to the craft through both her father and great-grandfather.

"My grandfather was a Mason, and I used to spend summers with him at Paradise Park," says Lauren's father, David, who teaches biology and photography at Soquel High School. "I always had a lot of respect for him and for Masonry, but I actually didn't become a Mason until a few years ago. I really didn't know anything about Masonic scholarship programs, but I mentioned to Lauren that there might be something available. She took the initiative and did the research all on her own."

Chaos theory is based on the fundamental concept that every action is the result of a previous action or condition. In the world of philanthropic giving, the same principle applies. A local banker in Santa Cruz becoming a Mason in 1911 was a highly personal decision made by one man based on his personal convictions and beliefs. Nearly a century later, the far-reaching effects of a seemingly small act are having enormous ramifications for more than a hundred college students in his home state of California. And as more butterflies move their wings, more tornadoes are sure to be created. ◆

By Terry Mendez

**B** eforeBefore implementing the Masonic Student Assistance Program (MSAP), a poorly performing student in the Vacaville Unified School District typically would be removed from the classroom and sent to special education, the psychologist, or the student attendance review team for discipline.

Now, early intervention and preventive measures are initiated by teachers at the classroom level long before a child fails.

"The MSAP model is part of everything we do to help children remove barriers to learning so they can thrive in the education setting," says Shereene Wilkerson, Assistant Superintendent of Learning Support for the Vacaville Unified School District. "It's changed the way we look at learning and support for teachers."

A small group of Vacaville educators first attended MSAP training in 2003. Seven years later, student assistance teams operate in 11 of the 15 schools in the 13,000-student district. Those schools that do not yet have assistance teams in place either have staff that are MSAP-trained or are on the waiting list to attend a workshop.

"MSAP training has made a significant and positive difference, for students as well as teachers," says Wilkerson. "It gives us common language and understanding to effectively use a process of analysis and intervention. It also gives us the skills to tackle non-academic barriers to learning, such as drug dependency and homelessness."

Since 1994, charitable giving to the California Masonic Foundation has enabled nearly 5,000 California educators and other faculty to attend the MSAP training at no charge. These educators, in turn, have assisted more than 71,000 California students.

Shereene Wilkerson, assistance superintendent of learning support for the Vacaville Unified School District, sees a positive difference in the students and teachers since the implementation of the Masonic Student Assistance Program.

# entrophy failure

Vacaville is just one of more than 80 California school districts and communities benefiting from MSAP training.

Kelyne Campbell-Townsend, assistant principal at Browns Valley Elementary School in Vacaville, credits student assistance teams with looking at all aspects of a child's

"This program not only provides new tools and resources for classroom teachers, it builds community at the school."

life that could be interfering with learning, rather than assuming that there is something wrong with the child.

"It's a hard process because it requires the teacher to focus on keeping the child in the classroom rather than referring him or her to special education. The child could have reading difficulties or a severe home problem," says Campbell-Townsend. "The team looks closely at the symptoms first to determine what the child needs. This collaboration works because the teacher remains at the center of the child's education."

Lyla Masterson, a kindergarten teacher at Browns Valley for almost 20 years, has been closely involved in integrating the MSAP model at her school and is a team leader.

"This program not only provides new tools and resources for classroom teachers," says Masterson, "it builds community at the school. Teachers feel supported by the assistance team, which is made up of their peers. Having someone to talk to about a child's problem or behavior is important for teachers because they may not get support from the parents."

Students are referred to the assistance team for a variety of reasons. The team will assess whether the symptoms relate to behavior, attendance, health or academics. The resulting solution is often simple rather than dramatic, such as a pair of glasses, a backpack, or setting up a carpool to help a parent get the child to school on time.

The district formed a separate district assistance team last school year. This team works with the entire family, not just each child in isolation, and will help the family receive community agency services.

Community agency collaboration will soon extend to the Vacaville Police Department, when a group of police social workers attend MSAP training. If a school team determines that a community issue, such as gang violence, is affecting a child, a police department social worker will work with the team to assist with solutions for that child.

Wilkerson says the positive benefits of the MSAP model cannot be measured solely by test scores. Of equal importance to the Vacaville Unified School District is the decline in student referrals to special education and improvement in attendance.

"The California Masons have provided a valuable program that includes meaningful professional development for teachers," says Wilkerson. "Teachers feel they are improving their profession and changing behavior for the good of the community. The Masons understand that public education is a mission of the entire community." &

## Book Reviews

## Masonic Philanthropies: A Tradition of Caring, Second Edition

S. Brent Morris Softcover, 109pp. 1997, Supreme Councils, 33°, N.M.J. and S.J. Library of Congress Catalogue Card Number: 97-68601

#### **Reviewed by Adam G. Kendall**

Freemasonry inculcates in its members a desire to develop within themselves the noble virtues of charity and philanthropy. They are not mere words that describe check writing and warm platitudes; charity and philanthropy denote compassion and the love of mankind, respectively.

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It is this love of our fellow man that compels a Mason to have compassion for the human race and to find outlets whereby he may improve and maintain the societies in which we live. Thus, the Masonic fraternity worldwide is comprised of organizations devoted to this sublime precept. How many are there, you ask. Well, in "Masonic Philanthropies: A Tradition of Caring," S. Brent Morris lists no fewer than 43 Masonic philanthropic organizations around the United States. His brief descriptions of each make this book a handy reference guide for any Freemason.

## Masonic Temples: Freemasonry, Ritual Architecture, and Masculine Archetypes

William D. Moore University of Tennessee Press ISBN-10: 1572334967 ISBN-13: 978-1572334960 Copyright 2006 (Hardcover, 272 pages)

#### **Reviewed by Erik E. Peterson**

While not a Mason himself, William D. Moore, Ph.D., is a professor of history and was once the director of the Livingston Masonic Library in New York. In this excellent book, Dr. Moore provides a study of the architecture of Masonic temples in detail within the context of 19th and early 20th century American cultural attitudes regarding the nature of masculine archetypes of that period and earlier.

Divided into four categories of Masonic and related organizations (the lodge room/temple, armory and drill room of the Knights Templar, the Scottish Rite Cathedral, and the Shriners' mosque), Professor Moore describes the fascinating social impulse for constructing sacred spaces in which to exemplify the dramatic and mythological exploits of masculine archetypes found in Freemasonry's appendant and concordant bodies: virtuous artisans, holy warriors, wise men, and jesters.

This book is well researched and is a bonus for those interested in historical trends in society as they relate to masculinity, fraternalism, and Freemasonry, in particular. By Amy Dobson

## Acacia Creek Initiative to Provide Affordable Retirement Residences

The California Freemasons are developing a new affordable retirement community for Master Masons and their widows. With a groundbreaking set for this fall and a projected opening date of 2009, the Acacia Creek Retirement Communities will provide independent-living facilities with access to skilled-nursing care. For residents who are in need of additional services, Acacia Creek will also provide assisted-living facilities and special services for memory care patients.

According to Rob Fallon,

"The major benefit of living in a retirement community is the camaraderie of similar couples. It is also good for people who might have lost someone. There is a social support structure in which residents take care of other residents. It is a vibrant community, and some have compared it to the atmosphere of a college dorm."

**Executive Director of Masonic** Homes in Union City, there will be a total of 192 units, and it is expected that approximately 40 percent of them will house couples. Each unit will be 1,200 square feet with a two-bedroom, two-bath setup, and residents will be allowed to keep pets. As Fallon says, "The major benefit of living in a retirement community is the camaraderie of similar couples. It is also good for people who might have lost someone. There is a social support structure in which residents take care of other residents. It is a vibrant community, and some have compared it to the atmosphere of a college dorm."

One of the primary goals of this project is to create an affordable, life-long solution to the problem of finding a place to live for the elderly. By creatively structuring the financing, Acacia Creek can promise its residents that they will never be forced to leave for financial reasons. At the moment, a down payment of \$460,000 is required to secure a spot, and a monthly fee is required to cover basic amenities, such as housekeeping and grounds maintenance.

Fallon says that the initial down payment acts as a nest egg in case the resident becomes unable to pay the monthly fee. As of now, if the resident never has to draw from this money, 100 percent of it will be returned to the resident or his or her estate once he or she is no longer a member of the community. Upon Acacia Creek's opening in 2009, however, this will drop to a 90 percent return.

As Fallon says, "The major problem with continuing-care retirement communities is that they have always been structured for those that can afford it. We are doing something different by marketing to the middle class. In fact, the reason we require a \$460,000 down payment is that that is currently the average sales price of a home for the type of person we expect to live here." He adds that it is not just residents who will find peace of mind. "It is the ideal retirement setup in America today. Residents have to move only once. Children do not have to worry about where their parents are going to go if they run out of money." 🚸

## Covina Family Resource Center Finds

California Freemason 20

## Success<br/> By Amy Dobson

he Family Resource Center in Covina has made impressive strides in helping the population of individuals that they serve. Completely funded by donations from Masons, this program, which was started in 2004, has successfully served nearly 100 children and their families. The initial goal of the program was to provide a haven for children in unsafe living situations, but it has expanded its mission to also address the needs of the children's families. Marisa Espinoza, Director of Children's Services, says that "Originally we planned that the child would stay here until they reached age eighteen, but we realized we were not helping them. Our goal now is to help them sustain healthy reunification with their families."

For the most part, children are placed here because their home situations are unhealthy or inappropriate. As Espinoza explains, "Our families are lowincome, so we might work with them to find the resources they need. Say, for example, older children are caring for younger ones because their mom cannot afford daycare, we will help them find the appropriate services. Other examples might be helping them apply for food stamps or Medi-Cal. We also offer parenting classes and can help people suffering from substance abuse find treatment centers."

Another frequent problem faced by families is children acting out in response to the upheaval of a trauma or loss within the family, such as death, divorce, or step-parent moving in. The Family Resource Center helps these families find counseling services that meet their needs. In the coming months the center hopes to bring a full-time social worker on board to address some of the therapy needs of the program's beneficiaries.

Currently the program serves 75 families, and 23 families have been reunified since the start of the program. To date, seven students have received college scholarships, and Espinoza expects that number to rise in the future. The center's current tutoring program is also making a great impact, and students who have spent one year or more in the "Originally we planned that the child would stay here until they reached age eighteen, but we realized we were not helping them. Our goal now is to help them sustain healthy reunification with their families."

program have an average GPA of 3.0, compared to an average of 1.46 for those who have been in the program six months or less.

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Espinoza sums up the overall ethos of the program by saying, "This is a field full of experts. Everyone knows what the best thing to do is. But really, the family and the children are the experts about what is best for them. Sometimes they might have unrealistic goals and we have to help them adjust their perceptions so that they are more realistic. What we do is act as coaches to help them achieve their goals." أ

## Masonic Homes



#### FRATERNAL SUPPORT SERVICES >

communications@mhcuc.org,(888) 466-3642

#### MASONIC HOMES WEB SITE >

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

#### 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 has 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 communitybased senior services providers across California

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

#### ACACIA CREEK COMMUNITIES >

For those interested in learning more about the Acacia Creek communities, please visit our Web site at **www.acaciacreek.org** or contact our offices:

For Acacia Creek at Covina: Call (626) 646-2962 or (800) 801-9958

For Acacia Creek at Union City: Call (510) 429-6479 or (888) 553-7555

Or e-mail us at seniorhousing@mhcuc.org.

#### CHILDRENS 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) 251-2227

hrameriez@mhccov.org

#### **COMMUNICATIONS >**

The Masonic Homes has 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@mhcuc.org. We look forward to hearing from you! Meet Tuoc Kim Pham Software Developer Master Mason since 1994

## Faces of Masonry

When Tuoc Kim Pham came to the United States in 1975 at the age of 18, he knew only a few words of English. He learned the language enough to earn his GED, bachelor's degree and master's degree at night, while working full-time. "I wanted to follow the American Dream as taught by Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, Napoleon Hill, and Norman Vincent Peale," he explains.

In 1992 he became an Entered Apprentice at Saddleback Laguna Lodge No. 672 in Lake Forest, and was raised as a Master Mason two years later. In 2004 he served as master of the lodge, and is also a member of several Masonic clubs. Tuoc says that "Masonry gives me the opportunity to serve mankind in the love of God and a chance to be a part of the force of goodness to bring peace and harmony into life."

Tuoc, 50, lives in Irvine with his wife Hanh Thi Duong and daughter Timothea Pham, who is an officer in Job's Daughters. He is a systems consultant and analyst at TGS Management Corporation.



## AT YOUR FINGERTIPS e-learning now available in lodge finance course

The Grand Lodge of California has launched the first of a series of online learning opportunities. Completion of the Lodge Finance Course, a module of the Lodge Management Certification Program, is now available.

To take the course, go to this address: www.freemason.org

This course is intended to help you become familiar with the basic elements involved in handling Lodge finances. The financial statements, reporting requirements, required components of a Lodge budget, and Lodgeinvestment and planning options are discussed.

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