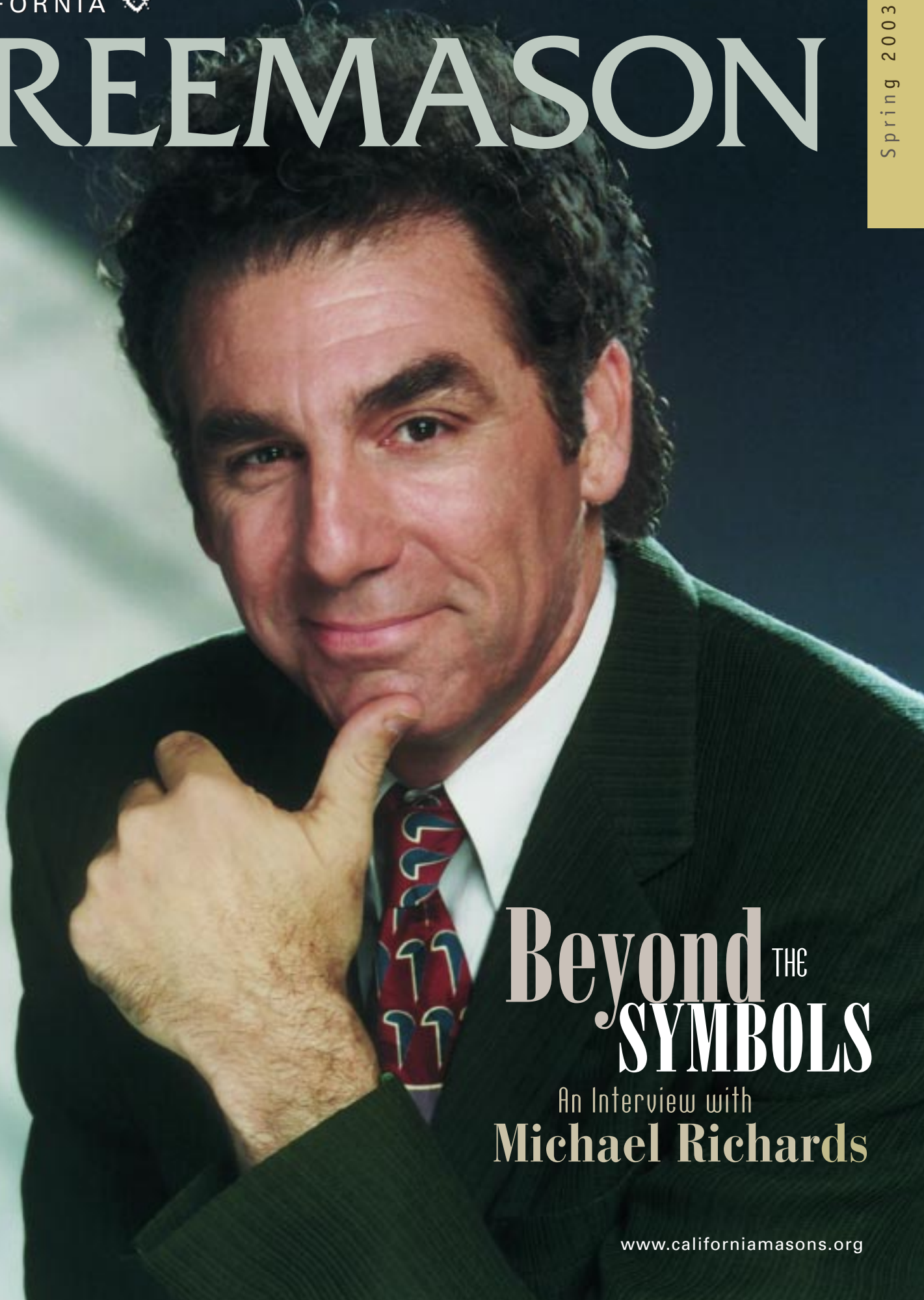


CALIFORNIA 

FREEMASON

Spring 2003



Beyond ^{THE} SYMBOLS

An Interview with
Michael Richards

www.californiamasons.org

Kids ID

Giving peace of mind to California families



Is your lodge involved?

Kids ID is a highly successful community service program available to California lodges. The program provides free fingerprinting and photo identification for children of all ages, offering reassurance to parents that they are prepared in case their child is ever missing or kidnapped.

In addition to the satisfaction of providing a critical community service, lodges that use the program say that their involvement:

- Increases public awareness about Masonry
- Generates interest among young families
- Gains new members
- Encourages member involvement
- Strengthens fraternal bonds

The Kids ID system is easy to set up and operate, and is available for your lodge to borrow.

Sponsored by the
California Masonic Foundation.

**For more information and to reserve
the system for your lodge, go to
www.freemason.org/kids.**

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12 cover story

This issue of California Freemason focuses on membership – here in California and around the world. On the cover, actor, comedian, and Master Mason Michael Richards shares his thoughts on the subject, Red Skelton's influence on his decision to join, and what attributes may keep the fraternity vibrant for future generations.



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Executive Message

Grandpa, may I borrow your tools?



Many times I am asked about the working tools we use in our ritual. It might be by school children at a cornerstone ceremony or someone who is just curious. I love to talk about the working tools, but I had never thought much about it until just recently.

I was at home working in my barn when I heard a car on the gravel driveway outside. Then I heard my grandson say, "Grandpa, may I borrow your tools?"

Without thinking, I immediately replied, "You mean my working tools?"

He said, "What do you mean 'working tools'?"

I realized I had a chance to teach something to a young mind eager to learn.

I said, "Well, sit down a minute and I will explain them to you."

My working tools are Masonic symbols, for me and all those I come in contact with, to remind us to lead a better life. I use them every day in my Masonic work.

These tools are: the plumb, square, level, compass, 24-inch gauge, common gavel, and trowel.

The plumb admonishes us to walk uprightly before God and man.

The square reminds us to align our actions by the square of virtue.

The level teaches us that we are traveling upon the level of time to "that undiscovered country from whose borne no traveler returns."

The 24-inch gauge is emblematic of the 24 hours of the day, which we are taught to divide into three parts: we find a part for the service of God and a distressed worthy brother, a part for our usual vocation, and a part for refreshment and repose.

We are taught to make use of the common gavel for divesting our hearts and consciences of all the vices and superfluities of life.

The compass teaches us to circumscribe our desires and keep our passions within due bounds toward all mankind.

"Yes, Grandson, you may borrow my tools anytime. Especially my working tools." ♦

Howard D. Kirkpatrick

Howard D. Kirkpatrick
Deputy Grand Master

A Lifetime in Masonry

Two-thirds of California Masons have been members for 25 years or more

Back in 1951, Roland Bell never imagined the day he would receive his Golden Veterans Award. Half a century later, now 75 years old, he celebrates 50 years as a Mason with feelings of pride and honor.

Bell, a member of Orinda Lodge No. 122, is one of many Masons each year whose lifelong dedication to Masonry is recognized and celebrated.

"There are feelings of pride, achievement, and confidence in receiving the award," says Bell. "It's a reminder that you can take on the tasks life brings you every day."

Last year 1,587 members received the Golden Veterans Award for 50 years of Masonry. Some 21 members received the Diamond Jubilee Award celebrating 75 years of membership. These numbers are quite significant in that they not only attest to the continued strength of both the organization and its members, but they also speak to the philosophy inherent in Masonry that transforms everyday members into lifelong Masons.

"As part of the rituals conducted in order to become a member, you consider serious elements of right and wrong in daily life," says Bell. "Through the years, you review with yourself what it meant to complete your third degree. What did it really mean to you, and what can it mean all of your life. I believe that for most of us, the inspiration to be a member and remain a member comes from that."

The average length of membership in California is 35 years. Of the 81,000 Masons in the state, 40,000 have belonged 25 to 50 years; and 14,257 members have belonged 50 to 75 years.

President Gerald Ford, who was made a Mason with his three brothers by his father in 1951, joined the ranks of the 50-year members in February when Grand Master M. William Holsinger presented him with Michigan's 50 Year Award. "Masonry was an important part of my father's life," says Ford, "and has been an important part of mine."

Paul Balin, 76, of Lebanon-Pacific Lodge No. 136 in San Francisco and Peninsula Lodge No. 168 in San Carlos, affirms those sentiments.

"For me, Freemasonry has been a lifelong teacher," says Balin. "It requires that you look at life differently, forcing you to make



Grand Master M. William Holsinger (right) presents President Gerald Ford with Michigan's 50 Year Award.

decisions about who you are and who you want to be. That has been one of the greatest gifts over the years.

"There's just a warm feeling about being a Mason, and understanding the philosophy and the teachings. I remember examining the 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th degrees, and realizing that they all led right back to the first three degrees. There is so much to learn from your brothers, and from the history of Masonry, that it turns into a lifelong process of self-improvement."

At a time when lodges are looking for innovative ways to reach out to new members, the number of longtime members serves as a tribute to the core strength of the fraternity and to the history inherent in its rich tradition.

Raymond Kirkpatrick is a testament to that history. Having celebrated his 102nd birthday this past year, Kirkpatrick celebrated his 75th year as a Mason in November.

"I joined in 1927," says Kirkpatrick, who's a member of Long Beach Lodge No. 327, "and it has been one of the greatest aspects of my life. It has truly helped me to become a better man."

Paul Balin says: "There is one message I would pass on to younger members, or those interested in joining. Freemasonry is one of the few things in life that you ultimately get more out of than you put in. Regardless of how much you apply yourself, it will come back to you tenfold." ♦

GRAND

The 2003 grand master's trip reaches out to small-town lodges

The grand master's trip this year has a flavor much closer to a concert tour than a sightseeing tour. Instead of the relaxing vacation-like trips of the past, Grand Master M. William Holsinger planned a journey that involves a bus, lots of driving, and multiple tour stops — sometimes hitting more than one city in the same day. Why would he subject himself and the other Grand Lodge officers to such a rigorous schedule? Because he envisioned a tour that touches many more Masons, particularly those in the far-flung towns of Northern California.

"It's important for us to reach out to lodges in remote areas," says Holsinger. "Masons in those areas often don't have the

opportunity to attend Grand Lodge events, so it's easy for those lodges to feel disconnected from the brotherhood." The purpose of visiting these smaller lodges, he explains, is to open the lines of communication to address the specific issues that these remote lodges face. "We hope to help them understand what Grand Lodge can do to help," he says, "as well as what they can do to help themselves."

ON THE ROAD AGAIN

This summer, the tour hits the road. Nine Grand Lodge officers and their wives will travel via chartered bus on a two-week journey through Northern California. The group will visit at least 18 lodges or districts in 17 towns during the 16-day trip.



THE GRAND MASTER'S NORTHERN CALIFORNIA TOUR: COMING TO A TOWN NEAR YOU

The grand master's trip this year is a unique opportunity for brothers throughout Northern California to enjoy one-on-one interaction with Grand Lodge officers. Masons and their wives in the area are encouraged to attend events to learn about Grand Lodge initiatives, share ideas, and discuss problems or issues your lodge is facing.

This tentative itinerary shows the tour stops and member events by lodge or district. The schedule was not finalized at press time, so be sure to confirm dates, times, and locations before planning to attend.

June 10, 2003

Guerneville
Mt. Jackson Lodge No. 295
lunch event

Sebastopol
Lafayette Lodge No. 126
evening event

June 11, 2003

Santa Rosa
Santa Rosa Luther Burbank
Lodge No. 57 breakfast event

Healdsburg

Sotoyome-Curtis Lodge
No. 123 lunch event

Petaluma

130th, 132nd, and 134th
districts evening event

June 12, 2003

Lakeport

109th district lunch event

Willits/Ukiah

109th district dinner event

TOUR



The tour departs Union City on June 10, traveling north up the coast the first week. After meeting with Oregon Grand Lodge officers in Grants Pass, Oregon, the tour then heads south through the mountainous eastern part of California, concluding back in Union City on June 25. Check the tentative itinerary below to see when the tour will be in your area. Masons from all lodges are welcome to attend the events. However, this is not a group excursion. Attendees are required to make their own arrangements for lodging and transportation.

PROGRAM NOTES

At each stop, Grand Lodge officers will discuss a number of important topics, including membership development, member retention, community

involvement, the Masonic Homes, Masonic education, and the Mentor program. “There are a lot of exciting programs going on,” explains Holsinger. “We want lodges to know how they can get involved.”

Equally as important, Grand Lodge officers will hear directly from members of remote lodges on a personal level — what problems small lodges face, what works and what doesn’t. This dialogue will help the Grand Lodge and the individual lodges work together toward a stronger fraternity.

“The goal of this trip is to energize the membership,” says Holsinger. “In years past, the grand master has taken Masons on a trip somewhere else; this year, we’re taking the trip to them.” ♦

June 13, 2003

Point Arena
Claiborne Lodge No. 185
lunch event

Fort Bragg
106th district
evening event

June 14, 2003

Garberville
Redwood Empire Lodge No. 683
lunch event

Ferndale

103rd district event

June 15, 2003

Eureka
101st and 103rd districts event

June 16, 2003

Crescent City
101st district evening event

June 18, 2003

Yreka
Howard Lodge No. 37 event

June 19, 2003

Dunsmuir
Siskiyou Lodge No. 297 event

June 20, 2003

Fall River Mills
Fort Crook Lodge No. 250 event

June 21, 2003

Quincy
Plumas Lodge No. 60 event

June 22, 2003

Paradise
Table Mt. Lodge No. 124 event
Oroville Lodge No. 103 event

June 23, 2003

Yuba City
Enterprise Lodge No. 70 event

June 24, 2003

Nevada City
Nevada Lodge No. 13 event

Bringing Men to Masonry

Masonic Information Nights reach out to the community and attract new members

In 2001, membership at Rim of the World Lodge No. 711 in Twin Peaks had dwindled so low that a consolidation was being considered. A third degree had not been conferred in six years. Lodge leaders had heard of a Masonic Information Night that had been successful elsewhere in attracting new members, and they decided to give it a try.

The program was a success. The lodge gained four applications for degrees (three new members received their first degrees in 2002) and four for affiliation. The lodge held a second Masonic Information Night in December 2002 and received two more applications and one more affiliation. Rim of the World Lodge is growing again.

William Williams, master of Rim of the World Lodge, believes the biggest issue in lodge growth is a positive attitude. "The new, younger members bring positive energy into the lodge, which influences the older members," he explains. "If older members are happy with Masonry, they will talk about it more and stimulate even more positive attitude."

Masonic Information Nights encourage this positive energy. Master Williams credits the support received from the Grand Lodge and the Masonic Information Night program given by Grand Master M. William Holsinger with getting these new members interested in Masonry.

Eel River Lodge No. 147 in Fortuna holds a Masonic Information Night using a speaker from their lodge rather than from Grand Lodge. Jim Widdoes, past secretary of Eel River Lodge, says the program focuses on what Masonry has done for the community and what it can do for the community in the future. There is a tour of the lodge after the program so potential members can see the lodge room and ask questions about what they see. Widdoes says the last few years have brought between 40 and 60 people to their program. That includes 10 to 15 guests, 90 percent of whom submit applications.

The speaker at Masonic Information Night at Atwater Larchmont Tila Pass Lodge No. 614 in Los Angeles is a member of the Philalethes Society and is very knowledgeable about the history of Masonry. Officers say that this historical perspective is what generates interest in their area. Teodulo Galsim, master of the lodge, believes the program at his lodge is a success because everyone who attends learns something new about Masonry.



At an event at South Pasadena Lodge No. 290, members and guests listen to a presentation about what it means to be a Mason.

Because of the success of this program, William Rhodes Hervey Lodge No. 767 and Cahuenga-La Brea Lodge No. 513 have partnered with Atwater Larchmont Tila Pass Lodge to hold an annual information night. The event draws 50 to 60 people, half of whom are guests. At least five applications are received at each event.

Jerry Shubb, past master and secretary of Hollywood-West Valley Lodge No. 355 in Tarzana, considers his lodge's annual Masonic Information Night the lifeblood of the lodge. Their program includes information about Masonry and the lodge, as well as a speech by the wife of a past master, who shares her perspective of the craft and addresses the ladies about their involvement with the lodge. Shubb says more than

half of their membership comes from this event. He explains that Masonic Information Nights are not just for the members: "The events reach out to the community, to our neighbors, and to everyone and anyone. They help eliminate the myth that this is a secret organization."

Success stories like these can be heard across the state. The bottom line is that Masonic Information Nights work. Grand Master Holsinger says: "Masonic Information Night programs can increase membership. The more lodges that use the program, the better." ❖

HOW to get started

The key to a successful event is determining what about your lodge most interests potential members in your community. Some lodges offer a historical perspective; some lodges focus on family; some lodges promote community involvement. Take the basic program and mold it for your community.

No matter what your program focus is, lodges that have held successful Masonic Information Nights offer several suggestions:

- Encourage lodge members to attend and bring guests
- Promote the event through the lodge's trestleboard
- Promote the event within the lodge to help members get enthusiastic about the event
- Encourage members to talk about the event — word of mouth can be the best advertising
- Offer free dinner
- Consider offering entertainment

Because of the success of Masonic Information Nights, the Masonic Education Committee has recently enhanced the program to renew interest. An expanded panel of speakers is available to come to your event and talk about Masonry to the general public.

Turning the Tide

Lodges make double-digit membership increases

The conventional wisdom often heard for Masonry in the years ahead tells a story of declining membership and a dwindling sense of fraternity. However, success stories abound across the state, as lodges find ways to attract and maintain members. From San Diego to Citrus Heights, lodges are showing double-digit increases in membership through programs of community outreach, fraternal relations, and quality ritual.

San Juan Lodge No. 732 in Citrus Heights raised 10 Master Masons last year, and Moreno Valley Lodge No. 804 made 11. San Diego Lodge No. 35 raised 12, as did their neighbors, Lemon Grove

lodge and share with them some of the values that Masons hold dear.

If men don't know about the lodges, however, they won't know the joy of membership. To spread the word, Master Manual I. Blanco and the officers of Moreno Valley Lodge have worked hard to get the name of Freemasonry known in the community. In addition to the Kids ID program, which has been a major success at parades and fairs, Moreno Valley Lodge sponsors school programs such as poster-making contests for elementary students, speech competitions for seventh- and eighth-grade students, and essay programs for seniors. While they're involved in these

the lives of many good young men," he explains. "They have a need for companionship and the chance to associate with those of similar morals and interests, young men with young families, who have limited time to attend lodge." Because of this, the lodge tailors some of its events to interest younger, family-oriented members.

South Pasadena Lodge has developed several events over the past five years, modifying and improving them over time. In 1999, the lodge organized an annual visit to a baseball game, which has become a sell-out event. Lodge members also worked to develop a children's Christmas party, which for the past four years has been attended by over 70 children ranging in age from 6 months to 12 years. Not only is this event a wonderful day for the children, but it also functions as an outreach program, as the children of lodge members are encouraged to bring along their friends, who in turn bring their parents to the lodge.

Brother Fairfield encourages the use of the Grand Lodge packages for membership and awareness, such as the Friend to Friend and Kids ID programs. He also works closely with the Grand Lodge to hold Masonic Information Nights, such as the one held on January 15, 2003.

Although the social events may get potential members through the door, it is the ancient tenets of the fraternity — brotherly love, relief, and truth — that show through as the reasons that men of all walks of life decide to join. ❖

From San Diego to Citrus Heights, lodges are showing double-digit increases in membership through programs of community outreach, fraternal relations, and quality ritual.

Lodge No. 736. Torrance University Lodge No. 394 in Torrance and Tujunga Lodge No. 592 raised 14 each. To top the list, South Pasadena Lodge No. 290 raised 17.

Richard Foust, secretary of Moreno Valley Lodge says, "Success is as simple as dedication, community service, and hard work." Moreno Valley Lodge members foster their spirit of brotherly love and affection with "Friend to Friend" dinners, where brothers from the lodge bring someone they feel might like to know more about the fraternity. Brothers introduce their guests to the

efforts, lodge members make literature available to anyone who's interested.

In addition to involving themselves with local schools, the lodge has followed a growing trend among lodges by joining the local Chamber of Commerce. All these activities have resulted in a high profile of Masonry in Moreno Valley. Members are an integral part of the community.

Anthony Fairfield, past master and secretary of South Pasadena Lodge, believes that the best strategy is to cater to the interests and needs of the prospective members. "There is a void in

Recommending a Man to Become a Mason

The key word is fidelity

John L. Cooper III, Grand Secretary

Before modern Masonry arose at the end of the 17th century, the “making of a Mason” was accompanied by reading from the “Old Manuscript Charges.” These ancient documents contained the history and legends of the craft, and taught the candidate the important teachings of Masonry that had been handed down from time immemorial. Today these are found in the three charges that are delivered to our candidates, one for each of the degrees.

In California, the charge to an Entered Apprentice is found in our Monitor, and unlike the secret work, it is published for the entire world to see. It ends with this solemn injunction: "Finally: Be faithful to the trust committed to your care, and manifest your fidelity to your principles by a strict observance of the Constitutions of the Fraternity; by adhering to the Ancient Landmarks thereof; and by refusing to recommend any one to a participation in our privileges, unless you have strong reasons to believe that, by a similar fidelity, he will ultimately reflect honor on our ancient Institution."

The last phrase is the key to what we expect of an Entered Apprentice when it comes to recommending a man to become a Mason. Only a Master Mason

can sign an application for another to receive the degrees of Masonry. But, at the very beginning of his Masonic journey, we tell an Entered Apprentice what test he should use when recommending — or even encouraging — anyone to seek to become a Mason.

The key word is fidelity. Faithfulness to the same things that he has just learned are the important tenets that every Entered Apprentice learned when he was made a Mason.

These tenets are: relying on God as the source of his faith and life; treating his neighbor as he himself wants to be treated; shaping his own life to be of service to others; loving his country and earning the reputation of a good citizen; taking charge of his personal behavior and making himself a better man; and being a man of honesty and honor, always keeping promises that he makes.

These are among the tests of whether a Master Mason should recommend a man to be made a Mason by signing his application.

Notice that there is nothing about how long we have known a man before we can sign his application. In this day and age, it is likely that a man who asks to become a Mason may not be known to anyone in the lodge.

The question is not how long we have known him, but how much we know about him. We can find it out, if we are willing to do so. This requirement is not a barrier to the growth of Masonry; instead it is an impetus to seek out good men and lead them to seek membership in our fraternity.

Membership in Masonry is and always will be selective, because — in the words of the charge — it is “honorable, as tending to make all men so who are strictly obedient to its precepts.” 🍷



Beyond THE SYMBOLS

Is a deeper understanding of Masonry the path to the future?

Actor, comedian, and Mason Michael Richards sits down with California Freemason managing editor, Allan Casalou, to discuss membership in the fraternity, Red Skelton's influence on Richards' decision to join, and the relevance of Masonry to future generations.



Red Skelton (left) was an important influence on Michael Richards, both as a comedian and a Mason.

Upon his initiation, an Entered Apprentice is informed that it is the internal and not the external qualities of a man that determine his compatibility with our fraternity and its ancient customs and teachings. An afternoon with Michael Richards may cause the thoughtful Mason to wonder if it is not also the internal qualities of Masonry that should guide the future of the organization and its members.

Michael Richards is well read, articulate, and insatiably curious. Having studied the arts, nature, philosophy, and religions of the world, his quest for further knowledge led him to the door of Masonry.

EARLY IMPRESSIONS

The first time Richards remembers meeting a Mason was at age 12. "My mother had a friend who was a Mason," he recalls. "I didn't have a father, but he was like a father to me. He was very charitable with his time. On Friday nights he would take me to the American Legion Hall where some of the best vaudeville acts in the country were performed." Through this experience Richards developed an interest in physical comedy,

Skelton once said: "I personally believe we were put here to build and not destroy. So if by chance someday you're not feeling well and you should remember some silly thing I've done or said and it brings back a smile to your face or a chuckle to your heart, then my purpose as your clown has been fulfilled."

In 1969 Skelton recited his now famous "Pledge of Allegiance." At the end of the performance, he made what would become a prophetic remark: "Since I was a small boy, two states have been added to our country, and two words to the Pledge of Allegiance — under God. Wouldn't it be a pity if someone said that is a prayer and this would be removed from our schools too."

"You see," Richards explains, "behind the clown and the blessing at the end of the show, behind the mask, was a great heart."

Richards would meet his longtime comedic idol in 1996, when he had the honor of inducting Red Skelton into the Comedy Hall of Fame in Lake Tahoe.

"Red Skelton was a great knockabout clown," says Richards, "one of the greatest in the world." In his early teens, Richards watched "The Red Skelton Show" every week. "All the characters, all of his wonderful physical comedy and mime work, that was big stuff for me as a kid."

and in fact, some of his material today is based on what he saw and learned then.

RED SKELTON

"Red Skelton was a great knockabout clown," says Richards, "one of the greatest in the world." In his early teens, Richards watched "The Red Skelton Show" every week. "All the characters, all of his wonderful physical comedy and mime work, that was big stuff for me as a kid."

Reflecting on Skelton's show, Richards says, "He was like a child playing and falling down and making people laugh, and then at the end of the show he would bless you. Like a Pope, he would give you a blessing. That says so much, doesn't it?" Richards asks. "Indeed, Red Skelton was a great comic with a tremendous love for humanity."

"Red and I had a chance to meet and talk in Lake Tahoe. It was then," Richards says, "I learned he was a 33° Mason."

RICHARDS BECOMES A MASON

After reflecting upon his experience with Skelton, Richards wanted to learn more about Masonry. He read what he could, but decided the best way to learn would be to experience it firsthand. "I decided to call Red," he says. "I was going to petition Freemasonry through Red Skelton. But before I could, he passed away."

Indeed, Richard Red Skelton died on September 17, 1997, but Richards' interest in pursuing Freemasonry did not. Exactly 15 months later, on December 17, 1998, he was initiated in Riviera Lodge No. 780 in Pacific Palisades.



Michael Richards (left) was made a Master Mason in Riviera Lodge No. 780 in Pacific Palisades. He is shown with Everett Maguiro, treasurer of the lodge.

Without Skelton to assist him, Richards went to some length to find out how to petition a lodge and where one even existed. He was finally successful through a call to the Grand Lodge

Not only did his hit television series, “Seinfeld,” appeal especially to a younger adult audience, Richards is also the father of a young adult and understands the struggles of that generation. “Young people today need a handrail. For some young men, Masonry could give them that support.”

To be relevant to future generations, Richards believes that “Masons must understand symbol and psychology, individuation, and what constitutes self-awareness.”

Indeed, Masonry uses ceremonies and symbols to impart knowledge to its members. Richards’ point is that a greater emphasis on Masonic philosophy and the sacred teachings of all ages could be key to the future existence of the fraternity.

BEYOND THE SYMBOLS

Just as it is important to look behind the mask of a comedian like Red Skelton to see the heart of a great man, Richards says of Masonry, “We must look behind the symbols to see the heart of their meaning. What does a symbol stand for? How do I translate that idea into my life?”

Like Jacques Cousteau diving in the sea, Richards says, “Masons must search the deepest parts of themselves, within any organization, to discover the uniqueness of their life unfolding.”

Richards is not alone in his convictions to this idea. Past Grand Master Jack Levitt recently wrote: “Freemasonry’s truths

“Young people today need a handrail. For some young men,
Masonry could give them that support.”

office. He spoke with Grand Secretary John L. Cooper III and was directed to Riviera Lodge. “I was curious. I had questions. I knocked. They answered,” he says.

Richards was passed on March 25, 1999, and raised a Master Mason on May 20, 1999. He affiliated with Culver City Foshay Lodge No. 467 in Culver City in 1999 and gave his third degree proficiency later that year.

FUTURE GENERATIONS

Since becoming a Mason, Richards has pursued a greater understanding of Masonry. During the interview, we discussed how Masonry fits in modern society and contemplated its future relevance.

are covered with symbolism and its insight with allegory. It is necessary to look behind the fact to see the truth, and beyond the symbol to see the reality.”

And as Richards would say, the reality is you. “A Freemason is a man building up himself, coming into his own to highlight the individual that he is,” he says.

When I ask Richards what symbol in Masonry strikes him as being especially important, he says, “When you go into our lodge, on the back of the tiler’s chair are the words ‘Know Thyself.’ That’s important. That is the ultimate message to all Masons — to truly know who you are.” ♦

Of Lawful Age

Young adults choose Masonry as a way to lay a foundation for their lives

An informal survey of nearly 100 lodges indicates that more than 40 applications from men age 18 to 20 have been received in those lodges since the legislation setting the minimum age at 18 was adopted in October.

Peter Daut, a political science student on the dean's list at USC, received his Entered Apprentice degree in Yorba Linda Lodge No. 469 in December. "To me, there is very little difference between joining now at 19 and joining at 21," Daut says. "Freemasonry is a tradition in my family. I wanted to join while I have the time. In a few years I will be finishing my degree and starting a career. I may not have the time to join then. For me, the timing was right."

Rob Herrell is a Master Mason and master councilor of the Northern California DeMolay Association.



Past Master Councilor Peter Daut sees a natural transition from DeMolay to Masonry.

While there are many Masons in his family, the chapter advisor of his DeMolay chapter signed Peter's application. A past master councilor and recipient of the Chevalier Degree for distinguished service, Peter sees a natural transition from DeMolay to Masonry. "The values and ethics taught in DeMolay are very similar to Freemasonry," he says. "I felt comfortable with the ritual. The obligation is actually shorter than the one I learned in DeMolay." Reflecting on his initiation, he says: "I found the Masonic ritual to be poignant and the historical nature of it to be very interesting. As I was repeating my obligation, I felt as if I were crossing over to adulthood."

Having been a youth ambassador to South Africa as part of the People to People program, Peter has his sights set on being a foreign correspondent or political journalist. "This type of work fascinates me. I like meeting new people, knowing every day is a new experience, and growing each day as an individual. Freemasonry is a part of that growth."

Like Peter, Robert (Rob) Herrell of Stockton also comes from a long line of Masons. "It is one of the reasons I wanted to become a Mason," Rob says. "My father, grandfather, and great-grandfather were Masons. I wanted to learn more about something that has been a big part of my life." His father was also an active DeMolay, as Rob is today. In fact, Rob is currently the master councilor of the Northern California DeMolay Association and he recently received the Chevalier Degree.

Raised a Master Mason in San Joaquin Lodge No. 19 in Stockton, Rob was impressed with the degrees of Masonry. "I am particularly interested in the lecture of the Fellowcraft degree," he says. "It is full of symbolism. With each step of the staircase, there is an important idea. I want to learn that lecture."

Rob, who is planning a public service career either in education or the military, believes that together DeMolay and Masonry will provide a strong foundation for his life. "At this point, I still have a lot to learn about Masonry. But the concepts are very similar to those in DeMolay. They are lessons that will help me conduct my life in a positive way, think critically, and make good decisions." ❖

hot spot in

HAVANA

Membership doubles in Cuba

In March 2002, the Grand Lodge of Washington, D.C., sent a group of representatives to Cuba to attend the Annual Communication and Installation of the Grand Lodge Officers, where Cuban Grand Master Jesus Armada Pena was elected to a two-year term.

Senior Grand Steward Akram Elias served as one of the members of the envoy. Elias, who is on the Washington, D.C., international committee, contends that Cuban Masons epitomize the fire that burns in the heart of every Mason, and that strikes at the very core of the fraternity and its history.

"The most moving thing I witnessed during the meeting in March 2002 was how very seriously they take their work," says Elias. "It was like a wake-up call. We take so much for granted in lodges throughout the United States. But in Cuba, members are inspired by the idea that when they meet in a lodge they're granted the opportunity to govern themselves. In many countries, that has a profound impact."

The number of Cuban Masons has more than doubled since the 1980s, up to 29,000 members in more than 316 lodges

across the island. In the last two years, there has been a dramatic increase in members in Havana. Earlier this year, the Cuban government gave permission to establish two new lodges, the first allowed since 1967.

REVOLUTIONARY ORIGINS

"There's a very intimate connection between Masonry and the independent movement," says Elias. "Many Cuban revolutionaries were Masons. This has influenced Cubans' image of the fraternal order. In many parks and town squares you will find a square and compass, and many lodges are prominent buildings in town."

French settlers who fled the slave revolt in Haiti founded the first Cuban lodges. The Grand Lodge of Cuba and the Supreme Council were created in 1859, and attracted many men who would go on to fight Spanish colonial rule.

"The Mason is imbued with the ideals of the French Revolution, the American Revolution, and the philosophical currents of the time, like Rousseau," says Grand Master Armada.

In an interview with The New York Times, Armada explains: "We have always existed in Cuba. But after the revolution there was a decrease in membership. So many left the country, while others thought the Masons no longer had a reason for being because our principles and our foundation as an institution were overtaken by the political process."

"Now we have found an echo among the young. They are looking for answers to their worries, which the state could not give them."

According to Elias, Masonry provides those answers by allowing individuals to express themselves in the "civil society microcosm of the lodges."



MAKING POLITICAL STRIDES

The Cuban government has recently given more leeway, allowing some Masons to travel to conventions overseas, including ceremonies in Washington, D.C.

"There's obviously an important symbolism in establishing a connection between lodges in Washington, D.C., and Cuba," says Elias. "Our priority is to strengthen those ties."

Cuban members are careful not to overstep their bounds, however, and they give the government reports on their meetings, both at home and abroad.

Lately, they have been allowed to conduct wreath-laying ceremonies in public parks. But they cannot hold street processions with unfurled banners.

"There was a great vacuum after the fall of the socialist bloc did away with any hope for people to develop themselves," says independent Cuban journalist Raul Rivero in a New York Times interview. "So people sought refuge in those groups looking for solidarity. For these fraternal groups, the loyalty is to the human being. For the government, solidarity is conditioned on political principle."

Like lodges in the United States, Cuban Masons do not talk about local politics during weekly meetings. But they say their talks are free-ranging, covering everything from democracy to the human genome project.

LOOKING FORWARD

Elias contends that the Masonic lodges are instrumental to the future of Cuba. "Throughout history, the lodges served as vehicles for social advancement. In the United States, Masonry spread like wildfire, where the lodges served as places where ideas were incubated and nurtured," Elias says. "When I see Cuba, I see the same sort of thing."

Cuban Masons have challenges to overcome, including achieving financial stability and defining the type of charity work to perform

"Now we have found an echo among the young. They are looking for answers to their worries."

within the structure of the socio-political climate in Cuba. But communication with lodges based in the United States and throughout the world will be the key to continued success for the fraternity in Cuba and as a whole.

"By exposing more U.S. Masons to Cuban Masons, we can rekindle the fire within all of us that will allow us to move forward to the next societal transformation," says Elias. "This will ultimately allow us to reconnect Masons to the fundamental principle of strengthening society worldwide." ♦



The Swedish Rite

Rooted in royalty, Freemasonry flourishes in Copenhagen

From the outside of the massive brick building on Blegdamsvej Street in Copenhagen, one might never know that to pass through the giant pillars and into this Masonic temple is to enter a flurry of Masonic activity — the dignity of which may strike foreign Masons as awesome.

Having been founded by royalty, the dress code and conduct is formal. All members wear white tie and tails, white gloves, and a top hat. Members assemble in an area outside the lodge room and are called in by rank; they remain silent for the duration of the degree. The ritual, conferred mainly by the master, is read in a dignified and ceremonious manner. At the conclusion of the degree, members are excused by rank to the

reserved dining room where they share in fellowship over dinner accompanied by several toasts and songs. From the dining room, members go to a salon for coffee and cookies before parting for the evening.

The degrees are divided into work conferred by three types of lodges. St. John's Lodges confer the first, second, and third degrees; St. Andrew's Lodges confer the fourth, fifth, and sixth degrees; and the Chapter confers the remaining degrees. At the top of the system is an 11th degree, the Knight Commander of the Red Cross, reserved for present or past members of the Grand Council or grand officers. These degrees are conferred by lodges chartered under the Grand Lodge of Denmark, which practices the Swedish Rite, a unique system of Freemasonry that, as its name implies, has its origin in Sweden.

Freemasonry was brought to Sweden in the 1730s by Count Axel Wrede-Sparre, a cavalry officer who became a Freemason in Paris. After returning to Sweden he held Masonic meetings with friends who also had been made Freemasons abroad.

By the beginning of the 1750s, there were a large number of Freemasons in Sweden. As a result, Count Knut Posse established the Lodge St. Jean Auxiliaire (John the Baptist) in 1752.

The Lodge St. Jean was called the “Mother-Lodge of Sweden” and considered itself entitled to issue warrants to other lodges in the country. Count Carl Fredrik Scheffer was elected national grand master in 1753.

Further developments in Swedish Freemasonry were made by Carl Fredrik Eckleff, an employee of the Swedish Foreign Office who held a foreign patent authorizing him to form lodges.

The Grand Lodge of Sweden was established in 1760, and it was recognized as a national Grand Lodge in 1770 by the Grand Lodge of England.

Not originally working under the Swedish Rite system, the Grand Lodge of Denmark was established in 1792 when Prince Charles of Denmark became the sole leader of the several Danish lodges then operating in the country. Charles died in 1836, and the Crown Prince, afterward Christian VIII, became the protector of the Danish lodges. His son and successor, Frederick VII, became grand master of the Grand Lodge. It was decreed by the grand master on January 6, 1855, that the Swedish Rite system should be used thenceforward in all lodges.

In addition to Sweden and Denmark, the Swedish Rite is practiced in Norway, Finland, and Iceland. A variant is also practiced by the Grand Lodge of All German Freemasons in parts of Germany. 🍷



Duke Karl, later King Karl XIII succeeded Carl Fredrik Eckleff as the Swedish Masonic leader.

Portrait of a Mason

An active life at the Masonic Home

After a visit to the Shriners Hospital in Sacramento, Maxine Land casually mentioned to her husband, Virgil, that the Hospital needed more lap robes for the children. Virgil thought about it for a minute and then asked, "Can I learn how to crochet?" He did, and in one year has made 40 comforting and beautiful lap robes.



Virgil Land (front row, center) was installed as master of Culver City Lodge No. 467 in 1955.

A remarkable story, made even more so, when considering that Virgil Land was 87 years old when he learned to crochet. His wife laughs as she talks about his patience during the learning process as she made him rip out row after row. He persisted because he found a need and was determined to respond.

Virgil and Maxine Land moved into the Masonic Home at Union City nine years ago and have been active in the community from the beginning.

Virgil volunteers countless hours at the Masonic Homes by working in the resident post office, giving tours to prospective residents, and providing comfort and guidance to those in need. At age 88, he is also coaching three candidates and is Senior Deacon of

Acacia Lodge No. 243 in Hayward.

Whether at the Homes or through his lodge, Virgil Land daily demonstrates his commitment to helping others whenever and however he can.

Virgil has been a Mason for 54 years and is a member of York Rite and Scottish Rite. He was master of Culver City Lodge No. 467 in 1955 and a recipient of the Hiram Award in 1988.

Not surprisingly, he was attracted to Masonry by the work of Masons. His grandfather, Peter Land, was a Mason who was "always doing what he could for people — anyone that needed help. During the Depression, the Masons were outstanding. They would give their last dollar rather than see someone go hungry."

At age 34, Virgil asked a coworker who was a Mason how to become one. Within months, he received his third degree. "Before we were just coasting along," he recalls, "but once I became a Mason, I met many people and really started getting involved. Joining the Masons was as good as getting a college education."

His commitment to the tenets of Masonry has been borne out by his deeds. His name is on a document in the time capsule behind the cornerstone of Grand Lodge because he gave \$100 for the building in a time when that sum



represented two months' rent. He was there in 1955 when they broke ground, in 1956 when they laid the cornerstone, and in 1966 when they burned the mortgage papers to celebrate paying off the debt.

Virgil Land wants to be known as a good Mason. He is reluctant to be the subject of any article because he does not want to call attention to himself. He insists that this article focus on Masonry and comes to the interview prepared with facts — about speculative Masonry — not about him.

To describe Virgil's active and ceaseless service to others is to tell the story of a man whose life is a living testament to Freemasonry's basic promise to take a good man and make him better. ♦

A Traditions Tale

Masonic families find a safe haven in new Alzheimer's unit

Cheryl Summers is the only child of Charlotte Everett, age 86, former Eastern Star and widow of Robert Everett, past master of his lodge in Palo Alto. Cheryl recalls that until not too long ago, her mother was a vivacious, energetic woman who worked at a job she enjoyed until she was 76. "She was always doing something," Cheryl remembers. "She is a staunch Democrat and loved reading and talking about politics."

In 2000, Charlotte moved into the Masonic Home at Union City. She enjoyed her new surroundings and showed off her home to visitors with pride. Shortly after her arrival at the Home, she began showing signs of the onset of Alzheimer's disease. Cheryl first noticed a change on her mother's birthday two years ago. Charlotte's behavior became erratic and she was increasingly forgetful. Cheryl recalls that in the beginning, her mother was aware of what was happening to her.

Charlotte was moved to the skilled nursing facility for evaluation. It became apparent that she was a candidate for the Traditions unit, which was then under construction. She moved into the unit in November 2002, as soon as it was finished.

Cheryl says she now has peace of

mind knowing her mother is getting the specialized care she needs. "It was an emotional and difficult time," she remembers. "The Masonic Home's staff was wonderful. I don't know what I would have done without them. They are so kind and they keep me informed of everything to do with my mother."

Best of all, Cheryl knows her mother is happy. Charlotte loves to dance, and she dances with a particular staff member whenever the pianist is in the unit. "Whatever activity is going on, Mother is there," says Cheryl. "And that's where she's always liked to be."

Virginia and Alvin Weis knew Alma and Mickey Martin for over 30 years. The men met and became friends at Acalanes Fellowship Lodge No. 480 in Lafayette. When Mickey died in 1991,

Alma remained in her home and stayed in touch with the Weises. Virginia Weis remembers that Alma was a beautiful, lively, energetic woman who volunteered for many activities, including working with the "sweethearts" (widows) at Acalanes Fellowship Lodge.

In 1995, Alma had a hip and knee replacement. The Weises saw that she needed personal attention and took her under their wing. She continued living in her home and joined the Weises for birthday and holiday dinners. As Alma's health began to decline, Virginia and Al were checking in on her daily, and she began coming to their home more frequently for meals.

Alma was becoming forgetful, but she wanted to remain independent and stay in her own home. Gradually, she became increasingly challenged by daily tasks such as turning off the television and making coffee.

Things came to a head last year when Alma, at age 85, was hospitalized with congestive heart failure. Her health continued to fail, and her doctors told the Weises she could no longer live alone.

After a brief stay at a private retirement community while her



Charlotte Everett (left) looks forward to dancing with staff member Kenya Herron.



Alma Martin (center) enjoys weekly visits from longtime friends Virginia and Al Weis.

application to the Masonic Home was being processed, she came to live at Union City, much to the delight and relief of Virginia and Al. “Even though we’re not family, it’s a very emotional experience to look after someone and see them slipping away,” Al says. “The Traditions unit is great. The staff is special. They provide care from the heart.”

The Weises visit Alma weekly, and they report that she is happy in the unit. “She has found a friend in her new world,” says Virginia. “Before, she was isolated and alone, but now she’s really content.”

Charlotte Everett and Alma Martin are just two of the stories about of residents whose lives have been touched by the Traditions unit at the Masonic Home at Union City. When the unit opened in November 2002, it brought significant and immediate

relief to the residents admitted to the special 16-bed unit. It also brought peace of mind to their friends and families, providing comfort to members of the Masonic community throughout California.

Created to provide professional and compassionate care to people with dementia and Alzheimer’s, Traditions was made possible in part by contributions of a caring and concerned fraternity. Many in the Masonic family recognized the need to provide help to the membership for this special kind of distress. Their generosity allowed the Homes to respond with the creation of the unit, reassuring the membership that the Homes will be there to provide support for the changing needs of the membership. ♦



The “Best Friends” who work in the Traditions unit are very special people. From left to right: Desiree Lions, Maria Sanchez, Kisha Williams, Kenya Herron, and Annie Campbell.

STAFF MEMBERS TAKE ON THE ROLE OF BEST FRIEND

Everyone responds to the love and happiness that friends bring to our lives. That’s the concept behind the model of care used at the Traditions unit. As memory is lost, people with dementia gradually forget their relationships with other people.

The “Best Friends Approach to Alzheimer’s Care” is the model of care used at the Traditions unit. It benefits dementia sufferers, caregivers, family, and friends by preventing and solving behavioral problems that often come from loneliness, boredom, worry, helplessness, and memory loss. It also strengthens relationships between those affected by dementia and the people around them.

All staff members assigned to the unit receive specialized training. The heart of the concept is that each resident is treated as an individual with the same feelings, needs, and emotions of any other person. It means taking the time to help residents suffering from Alzheimer’s to make sense of and cope with their world.

Jeanette Jones, director of the dementia unit and acting supervisor, says that the 11 caregivers who provide this extraordinary level of care are “very special people.” They love what they do and can’t wait to get to work each day.

Jones says she looks for individuals with exceptional patience, tolerance, and an easygoing manner to work in the Traditions unit.

The caregivers — or “Best Friends” — consider staff members and the residents in the unit as family. According to Jones, they let the residents know that they are there for them. Staff members bear in mind that they work in the residents’ homes. This attitude, together with hugs, kisses, and back rubs, makes for happy residents in the Traditions unit.

A Good Experience

Everyone benefits as Covina girls and boys join Masonic youth organizations

On a recent winter afternoon, a 12-year-old boy sat in the living room of his home at the Masonic Home at Covina. For the past several minutes he had been earnestly explaining to a visitor what membership in DeMolay meant to him. He paused for a moment and then summed it up: "It's beyond special."

A little earlier that afternoon in a nearby home, a teenage girl talked about her experience in Rainbow for Girls as she proudly showed off the gown she wears to meetings. She described how she felt she was learning skills she would use all her life. "At Rainbow for Girls, I'm becoming a better person and I'm learning to believe in myself."

DeMolay International

Last year, several DeMolay members and their advisors came to the Home to talk to eligible boys (age 12 and older) about their organization. For the boys at Covina, the prospect of an off-campus experience and the chance to interact with boys from the community was very appealing.

Twelve boys from the Home decided to join. Now, every other Monday evening, following a long day of school, homework, and dinner, the boys attend DeMolay meetings. They perform the ritual; discuss upcoming social, sporting, and fundraising events; and end with a social hour and refreshments.

How do the boys view the experience? One mentions that DeMolay provides a social safety net that can last a lifetime. "If you stumble, someone will pick you up," he says. In addition, several of the boys feel that membership in DeMolay is a way to give back to the Masons. As one



Many of the children living at Covina enjoy their membership in Masonic youth organizations.

Covina resident and DeMolay member remarks, "It shows that we care about what's been done for us."

International Order of Rainbow for Girls

Two sisters at the Children's Home are members of Rainbow for Girls. The young ladies were inspired to join after meeting leader Carolyn Parker. Parker says the organization works hard to "help the girls become responsible young women who contribute to society."

The girls attend meetings at the Glendora Masonic Temple, which has been very generous in its support of the organization.

All members of Rainbow for Girls serve as officers of the organization and have the opportunity to become a presiding officer. In that capacity, each girl has considerable leadership responsibility, including planning the calendar for her four-month term and selecting presiding officers from among the other members.

In February, one of the sisters was installed as Faith in the Citrus Assembly, which places her as the Worthy Advisor of her Assembly in 16 months. It is a great honor for her to be elected to this position, one that the family specialist of her home calls "truly earned and well deserved." ❖

NEWS YOU CAN USE

Admission to the Homes

If you (or a family member) are considering applying for admission or want to know more about the Homes, please call Union City in Northern California, **800/342-2979**, or Covina in Southern California, **866/627-6642**, or visit www.masonichome.org.

Applicants are urged to plan ahead. Both campuses currently have an admission waiting time of more than a year.

Masonic Outreach Services

For seniors who wish to remain in their own homes or in facilities in their own communities, there is another choice: Masonic Outreach Services (MOS). The MOS program helps recipients meet expenses by supplementing their monthly income.

The Community Information and Referral Program provides community-specific information on important topics such as housing options, insurance coverage, and much more. For more information on MOS, call **800/342-2979, ext. 1206**.

Communications

Speakers from the Masonic Homes are available to come to your lodge or function to talk about the services the Homes offer, as well as issues related to aging. These presentations are a wonderful opportunity for representatives of the Homes to present important information and also to hear directly from your lodge members about their needs and desired services. For more information, please contact the communications office at **510/675-1245** or communications@mhcuc.org.

THIRD ANNUAL

California Masonic Symposium

THE AGE OF FRANKLIN: FREEMASONRY, THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE, AND THE AMERICAN ENLIGHTENMENT



Image from the Collections of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania on deposit with the Masonic Library and Museum of Pennsylvania. (detail)

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\$69 per person

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Deadline for Symposium and banquet reservations: July 18

Accommodations and meals at Sunset Village Residential Center, UCLA

Room rate per night (includes meals, except banquet): \$113 one person; \$146 two people

Deadline for room reservations: July 1

A complete agenda and registration form for the 2003 Symposium will be available at www.freemason.org.

For more information, contact Joel Springer at jhspringer@freemason.org or 415/776-7000, ext.143.

The 2003 Symposium will be a lead-in event for the International Congress on the Global 18th Century, August 3-10, at UCLA. This major conference will feature two panel discussions on the role of Freemasonry during the 18th century Enlightenment, which culminated in the American and French revolutions.



Pass It On

Your sons and grandsons are the next generation of Masons. Have you asked if they've considered membership in the fraternity?

Talk to them about why Masonry is important to you, and provide information to help them make a decision.

Masonry is a legacy to be proudly passed on through the generations of your family. Don't let it slip away.



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