

CALIFORNIA 

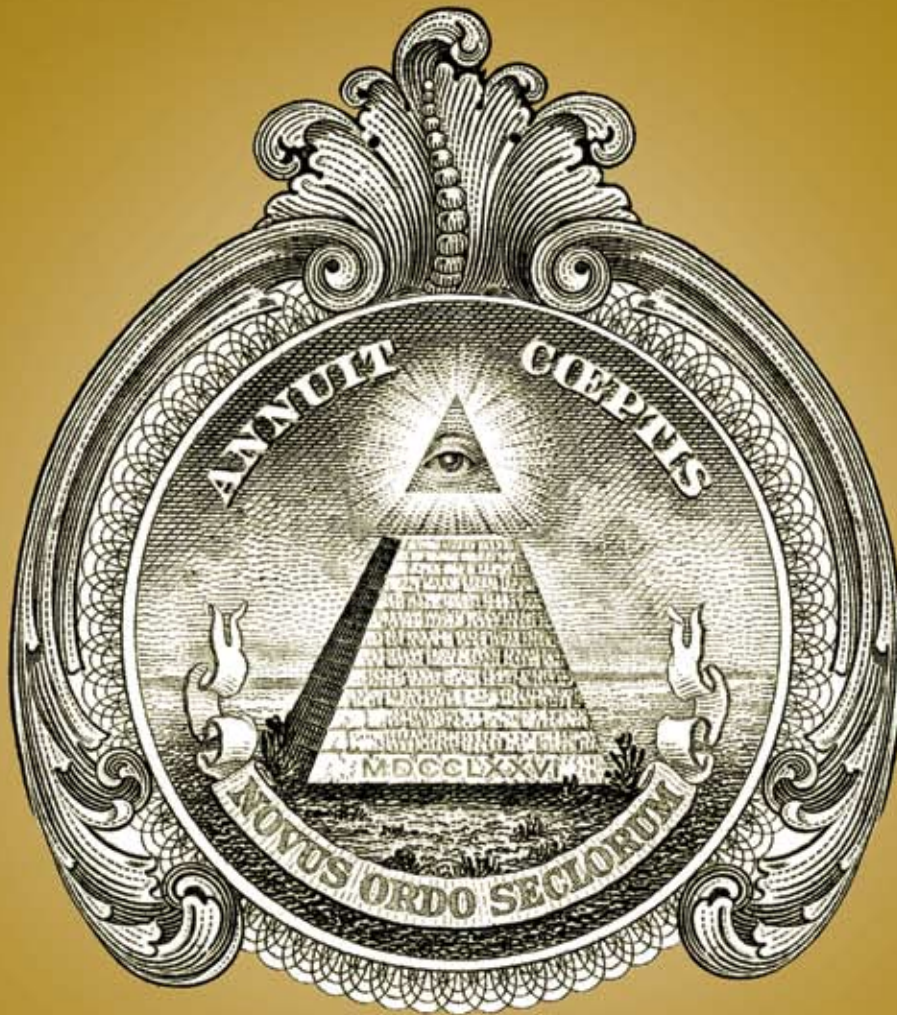
FREEMASON

Summer 2006



A MASON'S JOURNEY

MASONIC FORMATION
IS A LIFE LONG PROCESS



FREEMASONRY AND *Secret Societies*

AUGUST 25-26, 2006 · HYATT REGENCY GARDEN GROVE

Masons know that Freemasonry is not a "secret society." We are a private organization whose ceremonies as a consequence are private, and we have inherited ways of making ourselves known to other masons from our stonemason forbearers. Yet others continue to be suspicious that we are a "secret society." This year the California Masonic Symposium will explore this issue. Speakers will address the following questions:

- **Is Freemasonry a "secret society?"**
- **Is there a Masonic conspiracy to rule the world?**
- **Is the "All Seeing Eye" and pyramid on the dollar bill really a Masonic emblem?**
- **Are Masons trying to hide something from the rest of the world?**
- **Is Freemasonry compatible with Christianity?**

You are invited to join speakers and scholars who will answer these questions – and more! Our keynote speaker will be Dr. Gary Leazer, who is a prominent religious scholar as well as a Mason. He will talk about the opposition of some religious groups to Freemasonry, and why they think that Freemasonry is unacceptable for their members. Join with us to find out why Freemasonry has provoked so much religious and political opposition over the years – and the truth behind the charges against us.

SPECIAL ROOM RATE:

A special room rate of \$119 for single and double occupancy has been negotiated with the Hyatt Regency Orange County call **714/750-1234**. You must mention Masonic Grand Lodge when making reservations. Reservation deadline is August 5. Limited rooms available; reserve early.

SYMPOSIUM FEE: \$69

BANQUET FEE: \$49

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE
IS AUGUST 15, 2006.**

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10 cover story

A Mason's journey begins in his heart where he is said to have first been made a Mason. Where does the journey end and what does the journey itself entail? These questions and more are addressed by our Grand Secretary, John L. Cooper III, in the feature story of this issue dedicated to the theme of Masonic Formation. A little known term in our craft today, Masonic Formation is an idea of growing interest and may be central to the future of the fraternity.

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



5 in California

The Grand Master appointed a task force for Masonic Formation. Read about the exiting new programs about to be released.



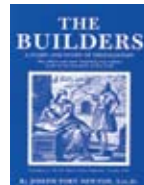
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The California Freemason interviews Grand Secretary John L. Cooper III, on issues relating to Masonic Formation and how it applies to every Mason.



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AWARD!

CALIFORNIA FREEMASON RECEIVES NATIONAL RECOGNITION

The winter 2006 issue, "Honoring A Legend" was awarded a Silver SNAP Excel Award for the best cover photo illustration magazine category. We are proud to announce that the California Freemason was recognized as second best in this nationwide category.

The Grand Lodge of California's Web site www.freemason.org was awarded a Silver SNAP Excel Award for the general excellence category. We are proud to announce that www.freemason.org won second place nationwide for design, editorial content, functionality and ease of use.

SNAP (Society of National Association Publications) is a non profit, professional society serving membership organizations of many varieties including the American Bar Association, Rotary International, National PTA, and Habitat for Humanity International.

masons have been involved in the education process since our very beginning. The operative Masons of old took apprentices under their wing and taught them the skills of their trade. As their expertise improved, these students would become journeymen and, perhaps, even rise to the respected level of a master workman.

Today, the speculative Mason has the opportunity to build edifices of men through teaching others those skills necessary to function in society, such as walking uprightly before God and our fellow man, squaring our actions by the square of virtue, and always remembering that we are created equal and that we should treat others accordingly.

The educational efforts of your Grand Lodge encompass the use of the time and expertise of our professional staff and the many volunteers and committeemen of our craft. Through these efforts, many opportunities are provided to the members of our lodges, as well as to the leadership and membership of our concordant bodies.

Examples of educational opportunities provided by the leadership of this jurisdiction include printed candidate educational materials, Wardens Leadership Retreats, Inspectors Administrative Seminars, Lodge Management Certification Programs, and the annual Masonic Symposium. In the future, we will likely provide DVD supplements to the lodge degrees and e-learning opportunities. Additional education is provided to the lodge leadership through the efforts of our inspector corps.

It is important to note, however, that your Grand Lodge leadership is very aware that these educational offerings and materials are available only because

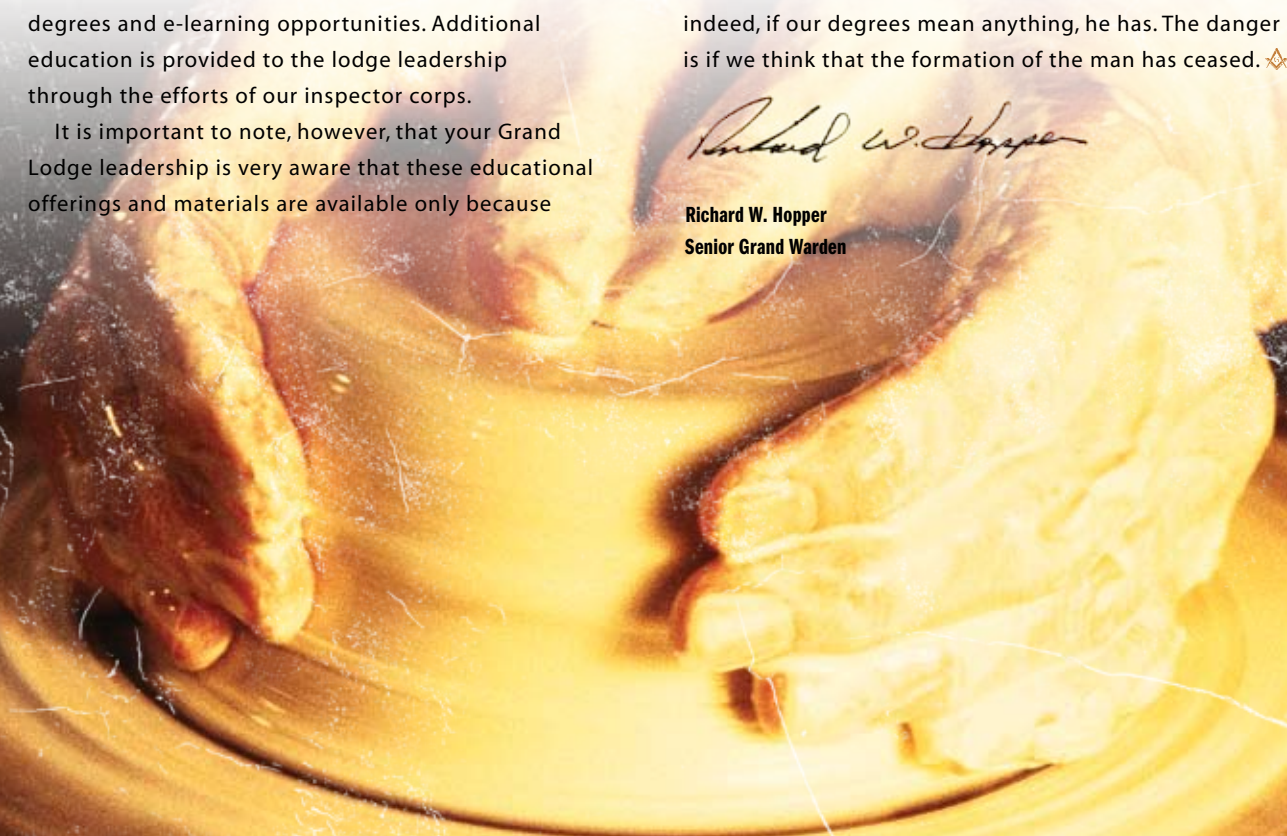
of your generosity in making continuing monetary contributions to the California Masonic Foundation.

Other examples of educational offerings might include materials from the Southern California Research Lodge and the Masonic Service Bureau of North America. Further, one may find wonderful books, such as "Freemasonry for Dummies," at the local bookstore.

The following short story reminds us that we should always seek additional education, or light, that such a goal should continually be in the forefront of our thinking.

A slab of clay lay on a table while the sculptor laid out his tools in his studio in Oeslau, Germany. On the wall was pinned a drawing of a young Bavarian boy with a fiddle in his hands. After looking at the whimsical drawing, the hands of the sculptor fell onto the slab and began to shape the lifeless clay, never changing the makeup of the clay, but rather reforming it into something far more worthwhile. Soon the clay figure was recognizable and its chubby hands held a fiddle's bow just above the strings. After some thought, the sculptor added a small puppy looking up in rapt attention. The actions of the sculptor had slowly, skillfully made the scene come to life and the first M. I. Hummel figurine was born.

After a man is raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason he, too, may feel like a slab of clay that has been shaped and molded into something more worthwhile; and, indeed, if our degrees mean anything, he has. The danger is if we think that the formation of the man has ceased. ✧



Richard W. Hopper

Richard W. Hopper
Senior Grand Warden



The Masonic Formation Task Force

Last October Grand Master Frederick L. Sorsabal authorized the creation of the Masonic Formation Task Force – a group of Masons who would develop the materials that lodges could use to implement the concepts of Masonic Formation. A group of 21 Masons was then assembled, representing a cross-section of the craft, from many geographic areas of the state. The task force is a balanced group – some have been Masons for many years; others for only a few months. Some are in their twenties and thirties – while others are in their sixties. There are three inspectors on the team, and two who are serving their lodges as master this year. There is one senior warden and one junior warden. There are also several past masters. The diversity of membership was purposely created so that the materials being developed would be representative of our lodges in different areas of the jurisdiction, and would be representative of the differing ages and experience of our membership. Three meetings have been held this year, with two more planned.

The task force is jointly chaired by the grand secretary and the grand lecturer. The grand secretary represents the Institute for Masonic Studies, which is a part of the California Masonic Foundation, and the grand lecturer represents the Ritual Committee. Since Masonic Formation is a blend of candidate education and masonic education, the grand master thought it appropriate that these two leaders jointly chair the task force.

The Masonic Formation Task Force has made a commitment to have materials ready for the Annual Communication in October, and has made great progress since last October. Watch for the Masonic Formation Certification Workshops to be announced, and if your lodge is interested in participating in this new program, this will be your opportunity to get in on the ground floor of Masonic Formation in California. ✧

THE NEW PROGRAM CONSISTS ESSENTIALLY OF THE FOLLOWING:

- ✓ A framework, or structure, around which both “candidate education” and “Masonic education” are organized. The framework is rooted and grounded in the ritual of the three degrees of Ancient Craft Masonry, and is designed to help the candidate understand more fully what he has learned in each degree. In addition, it takes these lessons into the future – for a lifetime of learning about Freemasonry by each Master Mason.
- ✓ A set of teaching materials that can be used by the lodge to create a “Masonic Formation” program. The “Masonic Formation Manual” incorporates many of the features of the “Masonic Mentor Manual” – and more – to provide a resource for the lodge’s candidate and Master Mason education program.
- ✓ Electronic aides to the presentation of the lectures of the degrees. The first phase of the project will produce a “dvd” to be used instead of the old “static” slides for the lecture of the Entered Apprentice Degree. When the entire project is completed, the lectures will be accompanied by contemporary and effective visual aides to help the candidate understand the words of the lecture in each of the degrees.
- ✓ Contemporary candidate education materials, which will include “dvds” to further explain what he learned in his degrees, and electronic programs available on the Internet to further his education outside of, and away from, the actual lodge candidate program itself. In a highly mobile society, this kind of “e-learning” will be a great help to our candidates as they progress through the degrees.
- ✓ Resource materials available to Masons in our lodges no matter how long they have been members. These materials will help them understand how to apply the teachings of Masonry in their daily lives – how to live out the “Masonic Journey” every day.

By Terry Mendez

Appealing

to diverse generations
How one lodge is integrating Masonic formation

Early in 2005 Hollywood West Valley Lodge No. 355 made an important and worthwhile resolution ... integrate applied Masonry as an integral part of the lodge's culture. Several new programs were created and existing ones modified the first year. This year the programs are being refined. In 2007, integration into the lodge's culture will be accomplished.

"The entire lodge leadership, not just a committee or two, is involved in our transition," says James Bayhille, senior warden and a Mason for five years. "We want to assure we have consistency and continuity from year to year so the programs will continue to evolve."

The Hollywood West Valley Lodge's Masonic formation programs are designed to engage and retain new, younger members as well as to meet the different needs and desires of the diverse generations that make up the lodge membership. The programs offer new opportunities for members to be involved with and support each other.

"We know that many new members are interested in history, symbolism, and learning how to use Masonic tools for self-development," says Bayhille.

While none of the programs have been developed specifically to increase

membership, there's no doubt that a varied program offering appeals to a wider range of men ... from those who are interested in intellectual and spiritual development to those who prefer philanthropic or social activities. The core focus of this transition, however, is Masonic formation available through the following programs:

The Symbolism Class was implemented about a year ago in response to several members' expressed desire to further explore Masonic rituals and symbols. Held monthly, the class focuses on how to apply lessons taught in Masonry to everyday life. As a step in further refining and meeting members' needs, the class soon will be divided into three separate classes, one for each degree, providing opportunities to deepen participants' understanding of the degrees. The new classes will include short presentations by members, suggested reading, and videos.

"We felt symbolism classes should be created because they would be important to a certain existing segment of the lodge," says Bayhille. "As the classes mature, we can tell potential members that we offer more than just meetings."

Masonic Education Forums, a lecture series offered in association with UCLA's Roosevelt Center, are open to the public and have been well attended by Masons and non-Masons. Unlike the Masonic Information Night, the forums are conducted as a mix of informative seminar and intellectual discussion, says Bayhille. The purpose is to provide opportunities to learn about and discuss the historical impact Freemasonry has had on civil society.

The first one began with Masons sharing their personal connections to modern Freemasonry, and then shifted to a lecture by Margaret C. Jacob, author of "Living the Enlightenment." Her topic, Facts and Fictions of Freemasonry, focused on Freemasonry in the 18th century and its connections to democratic movements of the period.

The second forum featured John P. Slifko, a UCLA Ph.D. candidate, who discussed Masonry's significant contributions to the development of print media in early America. The Forum's success was reinforced with small-group discussions that

continued long after the presentation concluded.

The Candidate Mentor Program was implemented to combat the difficulty in retaining members and their initial enthusiasm. Blending Grand Lodge's mentor program and the Pass It On program with ideas developed by the lodge, the program is designed to provide candidates and brothers a greater personal connection to the lodge. Mentors help new members assimilate

"We know that many new members are interested in history, symbolism, and learning how to use Masonic tools for self-development," says Bayhille.

into the lodge more quickly and comfortably and develop an early bond with the fraternity.

"Essentially it serves as a buddy system," says Bayhille, "whereby a member of our lodge is appointed to be the personal contact for the new initiate. This mentor not only serves as a coach to help with proficiencies, but also is available to the candidate to answer questions and inform him of our events as he progresses to newly obligated brother."

The 1st and 2nd degree classes meet the need to develop a new member's knowledge of the craft so that he in turn can inform others about the fraternity. Topics include history of Masonry, symbolism of the respective degree, and Freemasonry in pop culture. The movie, "The Da Vinci Code," was a topic the month it was released. Led by Master Masons, these classes typically run 30–45 minutes.

According to Bayhille, one of the lodge's objectives in offering a variety of Masonic formation programs is "to develop the perception that our craft is, once again, a hub of free thought, discussion, and rigorous personal development."

"The Mentor program and the 1st and 2nd degree courses are still in their infancy, so our data as to their success is limited," says Bayhille. "However, we feel these two programs are vital to the success of our lodge. The enthusiasm expressed by young and old members alike indicates we are on the right track." ✧

By Richard Berman

MASONIC formation

**Lifelong learning opportunities
for California Masons**

Grand Secretary John L. Cooper has been a long-time advocate of lifelong Masonic learning. He sat down with "California Freemason" to talk about "Masonic Formation, a new approach to broadening candidate education and Masonic education programs.

CFM: What is Masonic Formation?

JC: The concept of Masonic Formation is that a man who becomes a Mason should learn throughout his entire life. All of us need to focus on forming and shaping our lives to adhere to the principles of Freemasonry and live according to Masonic values. The core of Masonic Formation is the concept of Applied Masonry, which in simple terms is putting the teachings of the craft into practice. We want people to ask themselves, "What have I learned about Masonry to help me be a better man?" Applied Masonry is about practical lessons and about transforming a man who becomes a Mason. Masonry is more than a forum where a man can help his community—it is a brotherhood where he can shape and transform his life and where integrity and honesty become a central part of him.

For example, many political leaders—including 14 U.S. presidents—have been Masons despite the wide spectrum of their political beliefs. Masonic Formation is being developed so that instead of simply knowing their names, brothers in the craft can devote themselves to learning about what they stood for and what they can learn by following their examples.

CFM: What are the elements of Masonic Formation?

JC: Masonic Formation is designed to incorporate three areas

of Masonic education. The first is candidate education, which is typically undertaken by Masons after they are raised to the next level of the craft. Traditionally, this has involved extensive memorization of Masonic teachings; however, in 1996 the requirements for memorization were dramatically reduced, and three years later the Grand Lodge adopted standardized tests that Masons must pass at each level. We are creating a new resource book to be used by Masons, and will also develop a multimedia electronic presentation of materials to be used for the first degree.

Masonic education, which traditionally has focused on history, philosophy, and symbolism, will also be a key component of Masonic Formation. Right now there is no standardized program for this kind of teaching, and in many lodges it is done through entertainment activities. We want to create a systematic and organized way to understand what Masonic teaching is, and encourage men to follow it. The final major subject area that will fall under the auspices of Masonic Formation is education for non-Masons. We need to be able to explain who we are, what we do, and why we do it.

CFM: How did it get started?

JC: Last October, shortly after the 2005 Annual Communication, the Grand Lodge inaugurated a formal program focused on improving candidate education and Masonic education programs. In the next several years, the plan is for Masonic

Formation—a term originated here in California—to become the cornerstone of education for candidates as well as for educating non-Masons about the craft.

CFM: Who is creating the program?

JC: The Masonic Formation program is being developed by a taskforce of 21 Masons from throughout California. The group is a mix of new and experienced Masons, including one who has been a Freemason for less than a year. Most of the members attended seminars on Masonic education during the summer of 2005 and were subsequently asked to join the taskforce. We wanted a cross-section of people with interest in improving our educational programs.

CFM: When will it be implemented?

JC: The group will present its recommendations at the 2006 Annual Communication in October. One of the major aspects of the new education initiatives will be a certification process for certifying Masonic Formation Officers, who will be responsible for leading programs in their lodges. Masons can earn this qualification by participating in one of four one-day training sessions scheduled for 2006. So far, classes in Anaheim on August 5th and Fresno on September 10th have already been scheduled. ♦





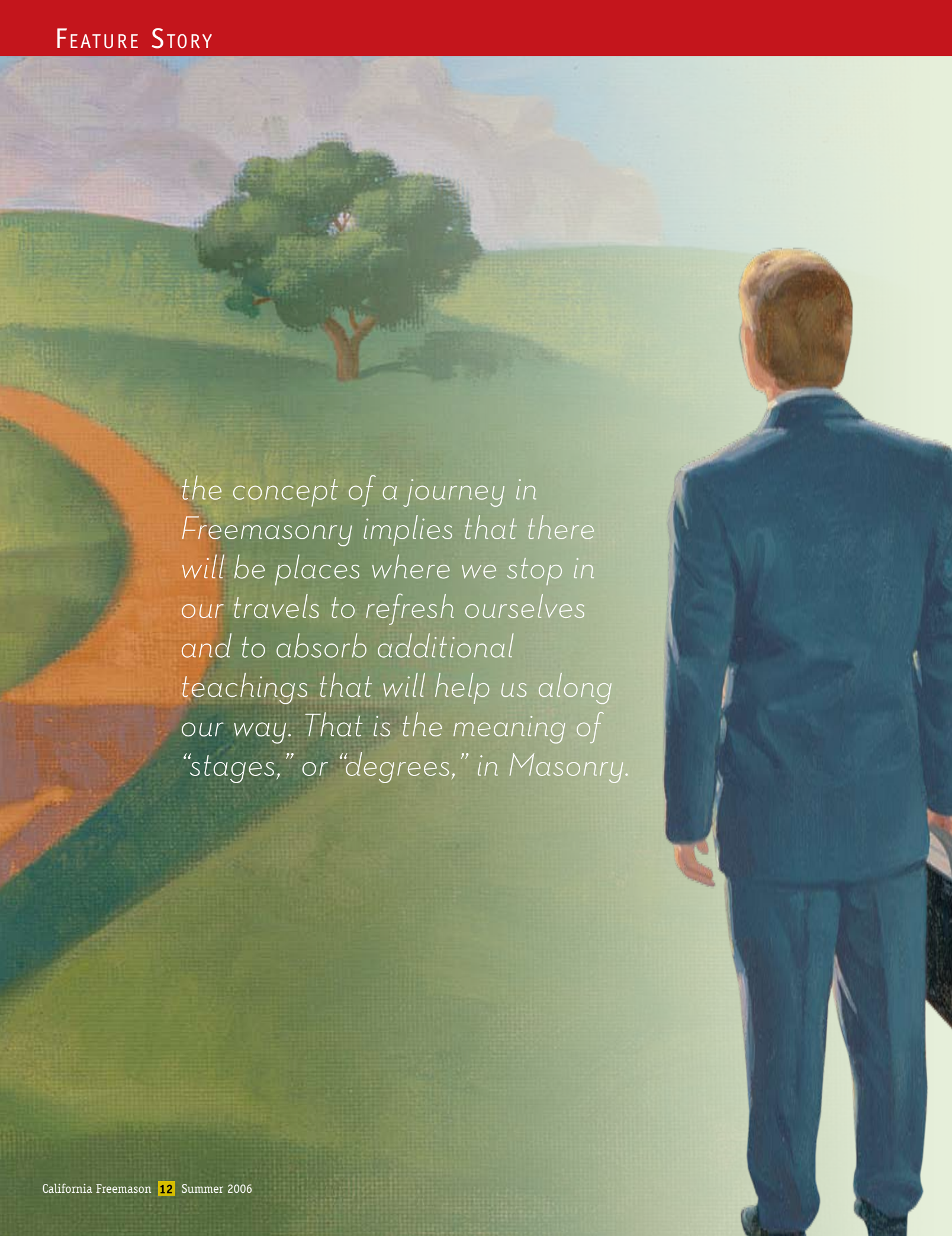
A PROGRESSIVE MORAL SCIENCE

Divided Into Different Degrees


By John L. Cooper III, Grand Secretary

The Fellowcraft degree is one of the more ignored degrees in Freemasonry. Sandwiched as it is between the beginning of the Masonic journey in the Entered Apprentice degree and the powerful Master Mason degree, it is often thought of as less important than the other two—something simply to “pass through” on our way to more important subjects. In fact, we use the term “passed to the degree of Fellowcraft Mason” as descriptive of this phase of our Masonic journey, perhaps without realizing how the use of that term influences our characterization of that degree. However, the degree itself is one of the most powerful expressions of Freemasonry that we possess, and an examination of what it teaches is a fitting preface to an issue of the “California Freemason” magazine devoted to “Masonic Formation,” of which more later.

Continued on page 12

An illustration of a man in a blue suit walking away from the viewer on a winding path. The path starts in the foreground and curves towards a large, leafy green tree in the distance. The landscape is rolling green hills under a sky with soft, white clouds. The man is carrying a black bag or folder under his left arm.

the concept of a journey in Freemasonry implies that there will be places where we stop in our travels to refresh ourselves and to absorb additional teachings that will help us along our way. That is the meaning of “stages,” or “degrees,” in Masonry.



There are two places in the degree where the candidate learns for the first time a real definition of Freemasonry itself. One is the charge at the end of the degree, when he is reminded that “Masonry is a progressive moral science, divided into different degrees. ...” He is further told that “... as its principles and mystic ceremonies are regularly developed and illustrated, it is intended and hoped that they will make a deep and lasting impression upon your mind.” The way in which Freemasonry does this is by bringing the candidate into the presence of profound and significant truths which it expects him to appropriate to himself. It is this which distinguishes the degrees of Freemasonry from mere induction ceremonies common in many fraternal organizations. While these may contain some observations of interest, and even some value as reminding a person of the importance of adhering to certain principles in life, only Freemasonry has as a primary focus the imprinting on the mind of the candidate life-changing ideas which will require a lifetime of study and practice to truly understand.

An acknowledgement of this truth leads to two further observations. First, becoming a Mason is a process rather than an event. Secondly, it

must progress in stages if it is to become a permanent characteristic. That is why Masons often speak of Freemasonry as a journey—a journey that begins when he first is attracted to the fraternity and which ends only when he lays down his working tools for the final time. Indeed, common parlance acknowledges this characteristic of Freemasonry. A common greeting between two Masons is often some variant of “I see that you have traveled” or “I see that you are a traveling man.” While this is not ritual, nor has it any official meaning, it acknowledges that one Mason can know another not by the pins and rings that he wears, but by a chief characteristic. And while this may, in some sense, reveal a shared image from our ritual, or even acknowledge a poignant moment when a Mason learns that his life’s journey may be over a “rough and rugged road,” it also acknowledges that Freemasonry is, above all, a journey.

In addition, the concept of a journey in Freemasonry implies that there will be places where we stop in our travels to refresh ourselves and to absorb additional teachings that will help us along our way. That is the meaning of “stages,” or “degrees,” in Masonry. They are places in our journey where we pause to learn something new,

...only Freemasonry has as a primary focus the imprinting on the mind of the candidate life-changing ideas which will require a lifetime of study and practice to truly understand.

to reflect upon what we have found, and to demonstrate that we understand what we have learned so that we can resume our journey with confidence. It is not so important how long these pauses in our journey are as it is that we take the time to stop and learn at each stage. An essential part of each degree is a question asked of the candidate: “Have you learned what you needed to learn from your previous stop along the way so that you are ready to learn more?” “Have you become proficient enough in what we previously taught you so that now you can take this next step?” Implied in this question is the statement, “If not, go back and work some more. When you are proficient,

return to this place and then you can advance. But before we can teach you more, you have to show us that you understand what you learned at your last stopping place.” That is a dramatic and ritualistic way of telling the candidate that “Masonry is a progressive moral science, divided into different degrees.” It further emphasizes that it is a progressive moral science taught by degrees only. We have no other way of teaching. You have to learn what we taught you before if you are to truly appreciate what we will teach you at this next stage in your Masonic journey.

As a Mason progresses along this journey—this path of life—he is not alone. As

guide, and fear not what man can do unto you.” We do not leave the candidate to figure it out for himself. We provide him with a guide—a guide upon “whose fidelity he can—with the utmost confidence—rely.” In a larger sense, the lodge itself will be his guide. The lodge has a responsibility not only to confer the degrees of Masonry upon him when he is ready at each stage, but to help him understand the inner meaning of what is being taught by that degree. It is this process of helping the candidate that is addressed by a new term in Freemasonry—“Masonic Formation.”

Masonic Formation may be described as the

Masonic Formation is intertwined with the three degrees of Ancient Craft Masonry, but it goes beyond that to make the teachings of each degree clear, and to help the candidate transform himself by means of what the degree is intended to teach. When our operative brethren built the magnificent cathedrals of old, they built not only walls, but arches and flying buttresses which enabled the building to soar to the heavens. These arches were not built merely by stacking one stone on another as a wall is built. They were built on forms—forms made of wood—around which the stones were arranged until the arch itself was finished and strong enough to hold up the weight of the building for century after century. In a similar fashion, a lodge supports a candidate until he is able to sustain the superstructure of Freemasonry in his own life without the need for additional artificial support of a temporary nature. This process is also called Masonic Formation.

Masonic Formation thus combines two new symbols in Masonry—the concept of “forming” a man into that “house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens,” as our ritual puts it. And to it is added the symbol of a journey—a

As a Mason progresses along this journey—this path of life—he is not alone.

an Entered Apprentice he learned that God would be his guide through life, although we leave it to his particular understanding of religion to show him what that means. We also teach him that his brothers are there to help him. At one point at the beginning of the journey the candidate hears the words, “... arise, follow your

systematic assistance the lodge gives to the candidate as he progresses along his Masonic journey. It consists of “candidate education” and of “Masonic education”—but it is much, much more. Properly understood, “Masonic Formation is the matrix into which the teachings of Freemasonry are embedded.

Freemasonry provides the equipment for this journey by encouraging a Mason to use the teachings of Freemasonry as a guide each day of his life.

journey that begins before a man even becomes a Mason, and which will continue throughout his lifetime. Freemasonry provides the equipment for this journey by

encouraging a Mason to use the teachings of Freemasonry as a guide each day of his life. It also presupposes that the purpose of the journey may be the journey itself. While

Freemasons are encouraged to look to their own particular religion for the larger meaning of the end of life, Freemasonry itself concentrates on the road that leads there. Each day can—or should—be enriched by a deeper understanding of the part we play in the progress of humanity, and of our own contribution to this progress.

Masonic Formation is a powerful program. In the pages that follow, you will learn more about what it means, and what it can do for your lodge. ♦





By Miguel Vega

THE GOLDEN BADGE

of COURAGE

The Masonic Formation process in Mexico

Most lodges throughout Latin America practice the symbolic degrees of Masonry borrowing much from the Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite. Thus their members are known as Ancient Free and Accepted Masons.

Because of this usage, some lodges label themselves as Scottish Rite lodges as opposed to the Free and Accepted Masons which are considered as York Rite Masons. Even though there are Lodges of Perfection or Philosophical Degrees of Scottish Rite (4° through 33°) and of York Rite (4° through 18°), and are separate from the symbolic or “Blue” lodges, there is a stronger Scottish & French Rite influence in Latin America.

Ancient Free and Accepted Masons meet in their symbolic lodges on all three degrees, depending on the business they want to conduct, but always open and close on the first degree then elevate to the degree as needed for administration or ritual ceremonies.

Initiation to the 1° is similar to the French Rite and the 2° is similar to those of British lodges with some variance; but the 3° doesn't depart much from those practiced worldwide in accordance with the Ancient Landmarks.

Opening lodge on the 1° allows the Entered Apprentice to participate in most matters of the lodge, reserving the critical matters, such as balloting and government for Master Masons. With this active participation of the Entered Apprentice their sense of belonging is strengthened.

Lodge meetings are conducted much like a school system, where the 1° is elementary

school the 2° is high school and the 3° is college or university.

Entered Apprentices are required to attend at least 75 percent of their weekly meetings for a period not less than seven months before they can petition for advancement to the 2°. Similarly the Fellowcraft cannot petition to a higher degree until they have attended lodge for five months. So, becoming a Master Mason means being active for at least one year prior to being raised.

All degrees require intellectual participation. Entered Apprentice and Fellowcrafts present “Quarry Works” and Master Masons present a “Tracing” which may be oral or written. These works are short, concise and convey the teachings of the values of Freemasonry.

To this aim in each degree the member is issued a ritual book and a manual to study and draw on their themes. Their knowledge is expanded through many required readings from other sources. They write and deliver essays to the lodge. The essays are discussed by those present.

This system has enabled the lodge members to familiarize themselves with Masonic history, ethics, and morality, so they can, by example, pass the benefits to their family and community.

At times in our history however, Masons have been persecuted by tyrants for expanding the freethinking ideals of Freemasonry.

Being a Mason in Latin America is exciting and bearing a ring or lapel pin is truly wearing a badge of courage. ♦

Book Reviews

The Builders: A Story and Study of Freemasonry

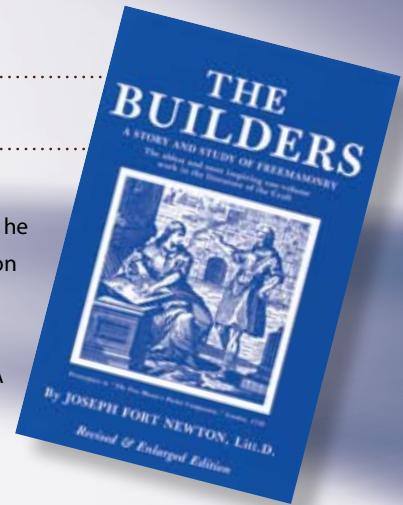
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(Hardcover, 345 pages)

By Erin Vomocil

There are questions each brother asked about Masonry as he stepped into the Anteroom, just as author Joseph Fort Newton did. "What was it? From whence did it come? What does it teach? What is it trying to do in the world?" Newton's answer to these questions is the artfully crafted book "The Builders: A Story and Study of Freemasonry."

Newton's linear argument of man as an intellectual creature and a vassal in search of spiritual enlightenment allows him to deftly traverse the pages of Masonic history. He speaks of the philosophical foundation of the craft, the creation of the Grand Lodge in England, and the dissemination of Masonry throughout the world. Newton concludes by outlining the religious implications of Masonry to each individual and how these beliefs, when truly internalized, affect the greater society.

The true power behind "The Builders" is Newton's ability to educate the layman in the aspects of Masonry while still withholding the secrets that are so dear to the hearts of many. "The Builders" is a thoughtful and succinct book that is as applicable to today's Masonic scholars as it was nearly a hundred years ago.



The Way of the Craftsman

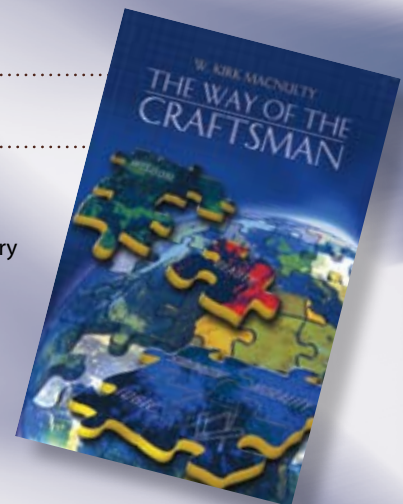
W. Kirk MacNulty
Central Regalia Ltd.
ISBN: 0954251601
Copyright 2002
(Soft cover, 153 pages)

By Adam G. Kendall

While the rituals and literature of Freemasonry point to very deep and mystical truths, they demand practical action for the ideas to have any effect at all in life. This is true of any profession, particularly the arts and sciences. It is within this context that Brother W. Kirk MacNulty elaborates on the craft being an art and science for both the mind and spirit - The Way of the Craftsman.

To quote: "Freemasonry, as we understand it today, dates from the English Renaissance. The scholars of that period envisioned the universe as a continuum of existence extending from its Divine source through celestial and planetary levels to the physical world at the furthest remove."

This book analyses the symbolic structure of Craft Freemasonry from the Renaissance perspective.



By Deborah E. Stebbins

What Is a Continuing Care Retirement Community?

A Continuing Care Retirement Community (CCRC) is defined as “an organization that offers a full range of housing, residential services and health care in order to serve its older residents as their needs change over time.” CCRCs can be high-rises or full campuses, like Acacia Creek. What defines them is their unique range of choices—in accommodations, health care services, fine dining, amenities, recreation, and social activities. Convenient services and programs support seniors in living longer, healthier, and more actively engaged lives.

As CCRCs, the Acacia Creek communities will offer members access to four levels of health care:

- Residential Living for residents who don't need personal assistance
- Assisted Living for people who require a little help with the activities of daily living (e.g., bathing, dressing, personal care, medication assistance, and mobility)
- Skilled Nursing Care (both short and long term)
- Memory Care

These accommodations and services will expand retirement options for the current membership and meet the needs of future Masons. Shared fraternal values suit the community model of CCRCs, which includes new opportunities for social interaction, volunteerism, and lifelong learning. And the CCRC focus on health and personal fulfillment aligns with our goals in serving you.

Interested in Learning More about the Acacia Creek Retirement Communities?

Discussion group events are being planned at locations across the state. To learn more about a session near you or to request a speaker at your lodge or lodge event, contact our staff. They would love to meet with you and tell you more about these exciting plans.



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MASONIC

By Deborah E. Stebbins

Senior Living



Caring about the health and well-being of our fraternal family as they age is what the Trustees and staff of the Masonic Homes of California do. We work to ensure our members have access to the resources they need to have the retirement they deserve. This has led us to introduce plans for two new Masonic Senior Living Communities: Acacia Creek at Covina and Acacia Creek at Union City.

Our vision is to build on our century of caring for our brethren and create new communities of residents who share common interests built upon the solid foundation of Masonic ideals, and a team of professionals dedicated to caring for our residents in a manner consistent with these Masonic ideals.

Designed to offer a new retirement option for the membership, these Continuing Care Retirement Communities (CCRCs) will provide our fraternal family a unique array of choices and amenities: spacious accommodations in various styles, healthful amenities, convenient services to free your time, engaging activities and excursions, and four levels of quality health care to carry you through your life—all shared in the company of fellow Masons.

Both CCRCs are planned for locations on the existing Masonic Homes of California campuses, so members can experience all the benefits these expansive and beautiful campuses already provide.

ACACIA CREEK AT COVINA

Would you like to be near the culture and excitement of Los Angeles and still live in a lovely, park-like setting? If so, you'll enjoy senior living at Acacia Creek at Covina. Planned for development on our casual and friendly 33-acre site in Covina, you'll experience fraternal companionship, volunteering opportunities with children, warm year-round weather, lovely walking trails with mountain and creek views, and easy access to shopping and cultural activities in historical downtown Covina and nearby Los Angeles.

This comprehensive CCRC will include spacious Independent Living options, including apartments, duplex cottages, and patio homes in various styles—up to three bedrooms plus den. They will have private decks or patios, full kitchens, washers and dryers, and reserved covered parking. Acacia Creek will also offer Assisted Living apartments and a new Special Care

facility, offering Memory Care. A skilled nursing facility is planned for a later phase.

COVINA: *Small-Town Charm*

The Southern California suburb of Covina offers a cozy, small-town experience, with the exciting cultural activities of Los Angeles only 30 minutes away. Lovely mountain views add beauty, and traditional values and attractive neighborhoods make it an excellent place to call home. The charming historical downtown district has quaint shopping venues, city-sponsored courses, and community events such as the October Bluesapalooza Festival, with lively performances by blues musicians, various Christmas celebrations, and other fun activities. The Covina Center for the Performing Arts is under construction now, and will present new and classic productions by Center Stage Repertory. The nearby Joslyn Center sponsors trips, tours, supportive services, recreation, and lifelong learning opportunities for seniors.

Acacia Creek at Covina is two blocks from the meandering Walnut Creek Wilderness Park and a short drive from the Frank G. Bonelli Regional Park, which has a 250-acre lake stocked with fish, a theme park, water recreation, and more. Near freeways and located on the famous MetroLink commuter rail system, Covina is minutes away from the ocean, desert, and San Gabriel Mountains. And you'll have convenient access to any travel destination you choose, with Burbank's Bob Hope Airport and Ontario International Airport close by.

To learn more, call **626/646-2962** or

800/801-9958 or plan to attend one of our Southern California discussion group events.

ACACIA CREEK AT UNION CITY

If hilltop living and wonderful views are for you, and if you'd like easy access to San Francisco and other fine Northern California cities, you may want to consider living at Acacia Creek at Union City. We're planning to develop this CCRC on the sophisticated and gracious 305-acre Union City site. Nestled in nature, with moderate year-round weather, you and fellow Masons will enjoy wide open spaces, a creek, walking trails, and regular visits by wild deer, fox, and turkeys.

Plans for this comprehensive CCRC will add more spacious Independent Living apartments in various styles—up to three bedrooms plus den. They will have private decks or patios, full kitchens, washers and dryers, and reserved covered parking. Acacia Creek will also add Assisted Living apartments and a new Special Care facility, which will offer Memory Care. A well-respected nursing facility is already on campus, providing quality temporary and permanent care if you should ever need it.

UNION CITY:

Natural Urban Setting

Near San Francisco and surrounded by the natural beauty of Northern California, Union City bustles with all the urban amenities you'd ever want and all the entertainment you'd like to enjoy. Just blocks away from Acacia Creek

is the renowned Union Landing, with 100 acres of shopping, dining, and entertainment. The excellent inland weather invites you to roam the city's 20 community parks. The nearby Quarry Lakes Regional Recreation Area offers picnicking, boating, hiking, swimming, and fishing, and just beyond is the 450-acre Fremont Central Park, with its own Lake Elizabeth. You'll find six colleges within eight miles of Union City, and year-round city-sponsored activities, including A Taste of Culture, a farmers' market, and a concert series held on Saturdays during the summer. And the brand-new Ruggieri Senior Center has a full schedule of recreational activities and events.

You'll easily reach any destination, near or far, from Union City. It has its own bus service. The Bay Area's famous BART trains will pick you up in Union City and take you to the Oakland and San Francisco International Airports.

To learn more, call 510/429-6479 or 888/553-7555 or plan to attend one of our Northern California discussion group events. ✧



NEWS

YOU CAN USE



MASONIC HOMES WEBSITE ▶

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



CHILDREN'S SERVICES ▶

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

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



COMMUNICATIONS ▶

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

MASONIC OUTREACH SERVICES (MOS) ▶


We know that many of our constituents prefer to live out their lives in their own homes or home communities. Yet many need help coping with the challenges and issues associated with aging. In response, the Masonic Homes of California 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 community-based senior services providers across California

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

A man with short brown hair, wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and patterned tie, is sitting on wide stone steps. He is smiling and has his hands clasped in his lap. The background shows the continuation of the stone steps.

Meet Adam W. Morrill
Environmental Scientist
Mason since 2002

Faces of Masonry

For Adam Morrill, Masonry is a perfect fit. "The similarity between my own principles and the tenets of Freemasonry is what initially drew me to the craft," says Adam. "Freemasonry has also helped to improve my perspective on the world through a greater acceptance of individuals and their varying beliefs and with this acceptance has come increased knowledge and understanding of the world around us." Adam is a member of the Masonic Formation Task Force and is Senior Warden of Tehama Lodge No. 3 in Sacramento.

"I remain a Mason because of the profound impact it has on my life and because I truly believe in the lessons

we are taught," he adds. "However, just as important to me is the manner in which we convey our message. The ritual, symbolism and allegory of the Masonic degrees are time-tested methods for imparting universal truths in a very meaningful and life changing way."

Adam, 30, lives in Davis with his wife, Nicole, and their daughter, Hannah. He is an Environmental Scientist with the California Department of Boating and Waterways.



Masons of California



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www.freemason.org



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