

CALIFORNIA 

# FREEMASON

Winter 2002

## Relief

### IN THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY

The Midnight Mission  
is Masonic philosophy  
in action

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**12 cover story**

What does Masonic relief mean to us today, in the 21st century? In 1914, relief was providing a meal to someone in need. Today, relief might be assistance with chemical dependency, protection from an abusive husband, or teaching someone the skills needed to get a job. The Midnight Mission is an inspiring story of Masonic relief in action. This issue looks at the many faces of Masonic relief and how they have evolved throughout history.



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## Executive Message

### Let them know you care

What an honor and privilege it is for me to have been elected to serve as the grand master of this great jurisdiction. I shall endeavor to carry on the rich traditions of my predecessors.

The theme for this year will be “Freemasonry seeks good men and makes them better — tell a friend.” Central to this theme is membership development and Masonic education. These are the issues we will be emphasizing this year, but now I want to call your attention to one of the three principal tenets of Masonry — relief.

In the first degree we were all reminded that “to relieve the distressed is a duty incumbent on all men, but particularly on Masons.”

When those gold-seeking 49ers found their way to California, some with lodge charters in their saddlebags, many had left their wives and families hundreds of miles behind, not knowing whether they would ever see them again. I am confident one of the reasons they established Masonic lodges in the frontier was to establish a connection with men of similar values, with the knowledge that Masons are compassionate, caring men. They also knew they were taking a step toward caring for those loved ones far away. Remember that Medicare and health insurance did not exist. There was no Social Security, and men were left to their own resourcefulness

to care for themselves and their families.

History discloses that most miners found little gold, some died looking, and many contracted fatal illnesses. One of the original lodges, Jennings Lodge No. 4 in Sacramento, expended all its assets caring for the sick in the great influenza epidemic, and the lodge ceased to exist.

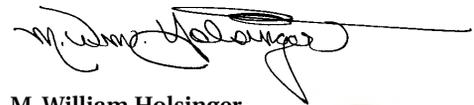
In the 21st century, our challenge is quite different, yet basically the same. While we are fortunate to be able to provide for our times of poor health through various forms of insurance, the basic need for human involvement is still the same. Newly discovered drugs can relieve pain and suffering, but there are times when a kind word from a friend will do far more to relieve a broken heart than all the drugs science has created.

It is the responsibility of each one of us to remember our sick and lonely friends, neighbors, and brother Masons. At times when the need is too great for an individual, the lodge should move into action. When the need is overwhelming, our Masonic Homes stand ready to provide assistance.

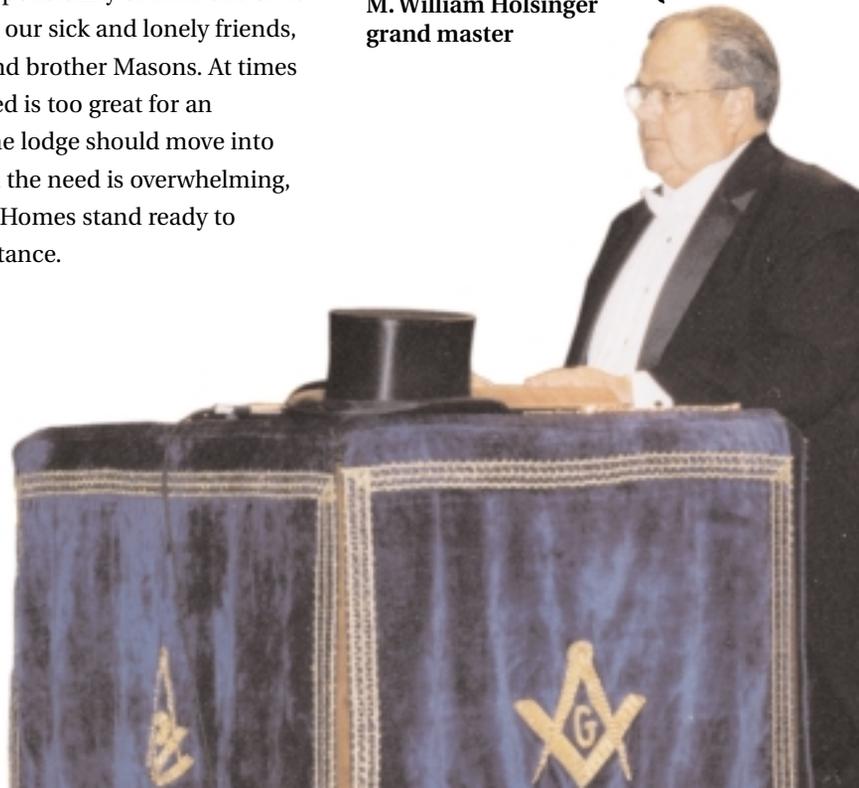
But remember, the responsibility belongs to every Mason to be a friend to those who are not as fortunate as you. Make a commitment to yourself that during this year, you will visit someone who is sick or lonely and let that person know that you care. You will be glad you did, and so will they.

While you are making that visit, keep your eyes open for that good man who has not yet learned about Masonry. If you find him, enlighten him, and maybe he will ask to know more.

Freemasonry seeks good men and makes them better — tell a friend! ♦



**M. William Holsinger**  
grand master



## Giving parents peace of mind

### Kids ID program prepares parents for the unthinkable

It's every parent's worst nightmare: Your child is missing. What do you do? With several high-profile abduction cases and increasing media coverage, parental awareness and concern is on the rise.

Indeed, the statistics are sobering. About 800,000 children are reported missing each year in the United States. And it's estimated that the total number of missing children (including those that are not reported) is as high as 1.3 million per year.

Law enforcement officials say that when a child is missing, a current picture, fingerprint, and physical information is critical in the crucial first hours. The Kids ID program puts this information in parents' hands. The program's biggest benefit, however, is to parents' peace of mind. Having this information gives parents comfort that they are prepared — just in case.

"Parents are extremely interested in how the identification sheet works," says Kenneth Miller, master of Ontario Lodge No. 301. "Parents tell me that it's a big relief not only to have this information on hand, but more importantly, to know what to do in case they ever need to use it."

#### JUST IN CASE

One parent at a recent Kids ID event in San Diego said, "With so many kidnappings in the news, you realize it can happen to anybody. As a parent, you start to wonder what you'd do if it was your child. I have lots of pictures around, but I don't have fingerprints. God forbid I ever need to use [the identification sheet], but I know I have it ready if I need it. That helps me sleep a little easier at night."

Since the program began in 1998, well over 200,000 parents have received Kids ID identification sheets for their children. Ontario Lodge alone has IDed over 5,000 children in the three years they've been participating in the program. "We get a lot of parents who seek us out because they've heard about the program from friends or relatives," says Miller. "The parents are very appreciative of the service we provide. Many of them come back year after year to make sure their child's picture is current."



Members of San Diego Lodge No. 35 provided Kids ID service at a local school's Halloween festival. About 100 children were IDed at this event, bringing the lodge's total for the year to 1,000 kids.

#### KIDS ID SUCCESSFUL FROM START

The Kids ID program began in 1998 when the California Masonic Foundation purchased three systems. The Foundation systems are loaned to lodges for use at local fairs, festivals, and community events.

From the start, Kids ID events have been highly successful. As more and more lodges saw a need for Kids ID events in their communities, demand for the systems was soon so great that the Foundation began selling the software to individual lodges.

Almost five years later, more than 40 lodges have purchased the software and their own equipment. The Foundation now owns 11 systems that are loaned to lodges, as well as a complete booth setup that is used for bigger fairs.

In today's stressful, dangerous world, parents have plenty to worry about. Giving them the peace of mind that they are prepared for the worst helps ease that burden. ✨

For information about lodge participation in this community service, visit [www.freemason.org/kids](http://www.freemason.org/kids).

# 153rd Annual Communication

## SIGNIFICANT ACTIONS AND IMPORTANT MOMENTS IN MASONRY

The 153rd Annual Communication is over, but the decisions reached and the events experienced will have a lasting impact on the fraternity and those who attended.

### MINIMUM AGE SET AT 18

"I look for the day when a young soldier who goes off to defend his country can take with him the principles that Freemasonry has taught him." This day, as described by Past Grand Master David C. Decker, has dawned. In a landmark vote, the delegates of the 153rd Annual Communication adopted Grand Master Decker's Recommendation No. 1, carried over from the previous year, changing the

minimum age for membership in California from 21 to 18 years.

Similar resolutions have come before the Grand Lodge a dozen times since 1971. Prior versions of this legislation have proposed changing the age to 19, or changing the age to 18 for members of DeMolay or for sons of Masons. Until recently, the legislation never received even a simple majority. In 2001, it appeared on the ballot again, but for the first time, it was a Grand Master's Recommendation. Nearly 80 percent of the 2001 delegates voted in favor of the recommendation, just shy of the necessary five-sixths majority, but enough to put it on the 2002 ballot. With some 78 percent of the delegates voting in favor, the recommendation became law.

California is the last state on the West Coast to accept applications at age 18. Oregon did so in 1983 and Washington in 1994. According to the Masonic Leadership Center, there are only 16 states in the United States that maintain 21 as the minimum age.

### VISITING DEGREES APPROVED

For more than 50 years, the Oklahoma Masonic Indian Degree team has conferred the third degree in a colorful Native American tradition, including full ceremonial dance regalia and traditional Native American hymns. This team has performed more than 800 third degrees in many states across the nation, including California. However, our Masonic law previously did not permit the degree to be conferred upon a California candidate. With the adoption of Grand Master Whitaker's Recommendation No. 6, a



California lodge may, with the specific permission of the Grand Master and in accordance with all pertinent sections of the California Masonic Code, invite a lodge or degree team from another jurisdiction (like the Oklahoma Masonic Indian Degree team) to confer a degree upon a candidate from the inviting California lodge.

### DUES OPTION FAVORED

It was Sam Ewing who said, "Inflation is when you pay \$15 for the \$10 haircut you used to get for \$5 when you had hair." However humorous his quip, inflation is a part of life, and each year the delegates of Grand Lodge consider the impact of inflation and the necessary costs of operating the Grand Lodge and its various programs when they approve the Grand Lodge budget and per capita assessment.

The result is that the per capita assessment increases by a few percent each year, but lodge dues are not easily adjusted to accommodate the additional burden. Thus, lodges have fewer operating dollars unless they adjust their dues every year.

Proponents of Resolution 02-01 sought to permit lodges, if they choose, to automatically increase dues when the Grand Lodge per capita is increased. This resolution received high approval, with 80 percent of the delegates voting in favor of its adoption. Having not met the necessary five-sixths majority, but with more than a simple majority, it will be carried over to 2003.

### PUBLIC OPENING CELEBRATES YOUTH

"I stand before you as a young man who has been inspired by Masonry," declared Matt Milde, Northern California DeMolay master councilor, as he spoke to the crowd of 1,200 assembled for the Public Opening of Grand Lodge on Sunday, October 13. According to Milde, his life's actions and values have been shaped by Masons,

"I look for the day when a young soldier who goes off to defend his country can take with him the principles that Freemasonry has taught him."

primarily those who serve as DeMolay advisors. Speeches were also delivered by the youth leaders of Rainbow for Girls and Job's Daughters as well as the master councilor of Southern California DeMolay.

Three California Masons were presented with the Grand Master's Youth Service Award for their outstanding service to Masonic youth organizations. For the first time in California, Masons who gave notable service to the Boy Scouts were honored with the Daniel Carter Beard Masonic Scouter Award.

Finishing the youth-centered program, 46 children from the Masonic Home at Covina made a thought-provoking presentation with a video describing the children's program at Covina (see page 22).

### AMERICAN EXTRAVAGANZA BENEFITS LEARNING DISABLED

It was a star-spangled evening atop Nob Hill when a cast of 20 took an audience of 700 on a patriotic ride through history.

"If you are allergic to flags, patriotic words, unabashed tub-thumping of any kind," warned Gene Collins, program director, "I suggest you leave the auditorium immediately before the lights go down and you are trapped in a patriotic melee of love for our country."

The Monday evening entertainment, titled "An American Extravaganza For People Who Love America" was kicked off by Rachel Kerstner, a member of Rainbow for Girls, who sang the national anthem.

*Continued on page 8*



The cast donned period costumes and told the American story through the lives of great figures like Benjamin Franklin, Abigail Adams, James Madison, Davy Crocket, Susan B. Anthony, and Harry S. Truman. Even Theodore Roosevelt made an appearance, and his impression was so great, Masons were heard crying "Bully!" for days.

The program concluded with "I'm Proud to be an American" sung by Kerstner, and the entire crowd left singing "God Bless America." All tickets sales from this event benefited Grand Master and Joyce Whitaker's scholarship for the learning disabled.

## LADIES LUNCH WITH A VIEW

The express elevator at the Fairmont Hotel runs nonstop to the 24th floor, where the spectacular Crown Room at the top of this renowned hotel offers a breath-taking panoramic view of San Francisco and the Bay Area. This was the venue for "A Winter Wonderland," where some 250 ladies joined the grand master's wife, Joyce Whitaker, for a Tuesday luncheon.

"Winter, particularly because of the holidays, seems to be the time when mankind is at its best. Though its colder outside, people seem to be warmer inside," Mrs. Whitaker said at the luncheon. "Why should these important qualities shine only in Winter? Today we celebrate the fact that every season should be a wonderland of peace, goodwill, warmth, and charity."

The tables were set with winter decorations, and the three-course lunch included a standing snowman dessert. David Francis Phillips provided entertainment, singing from the great American songbook. Numbers like "It Had to Be You" were combined with several favorite winter and holiday tunes.

## INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

The California Masonic Code requires that the last order of business is the election of Grand Lodge officers. Accordingly, M. William Holsinger was duly elected the 138th grand master of Masons. Howard D. Kirkpatrick was elected deputy grand master, David R. Doan as senior grand warden, and Frederick L. Sorsabal as junior grand warden. Warren J. Blomseth was elected grand treasurer, John L. Cooper III as grand secretary, and Harold A. Macy as grand lecturer.

These officers, together with the appointed Grand Lodge officers, were installed on Wednesday morning at a ceremony attended by more than 500 guests. ✨

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# 2002 LEGISLATION RESULTS

## GRAND MASTER WHITAKER'S DECISIONS

- 1 Continuing the Suspension of Huntington Beach Lodge No. 380 **PASSED**
- 2 Use of Refreshment Revolving Fund **PASSED**
- 3 Use of Web Sites **PASSED**
- 4 Solicitation of Funds to Participate in Foundation Outside of California **PASSED**
- 5 Investments of Grand Lodge and Its Entities **PASSED**

## GRAND MASTER WHITAKER'S RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1 Safeguards for Lodge Finances and Investments **CARRY-OVER**
- 2 Restructuring of Grand Lodge Committees **PASSED**
- 3 Clarifying Language of Section 7020 of the "California Masonic Code" **PASSED**
- 4 Changing Name of California Masonic Memorial Temple to California Masonic Memorial Center **CARRY-OVER**
- 5 Composition of the California Masonic Foundation Board of Trustees **PASSED**
- 6 Conferral of Degrees in this Jurisdiction by Another Jurisdiction **PASSED**

## CARRY-OVER FROM 2001 GRAND MASTER DECKER'S RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1 Receiving Applications at Age 18 **PASSED**
- 3 Refund of Fees for Failure to Advance **PASSED**

## 2001 RESOLUTIONS

- 01-05 Requires Only One Volume of the Sacred Law on the Altar at a Time **FAILED**

## 2002 RESOLUTIONS

- 02-01 Alternative Dues Structure **CARRY-OVER**
- 02-02 Limits on Lodge Support for Charities **FAILED**
- 02-03 Adds "Applied Masonry" to Mentor Program **FAILED**
- 02-04 Lodge Youth Award **FAILED**
- 02-05 Rules for Lodge Board of Trustees **FAILED**
- 02-06 Changes Name of Grand Lodge Temple Properties and Taxation Committee **CARRY-OVER**
- 02-07 Requires Temple Associations for Real Property **CARRY-OVER**
- 02-08 Procedures for Tax-Exempt Donations to Temple Associations **FAILED**
- 02-09 Partnerships with Schools **WITHDRAWN**
- \* 02-10 ~~Recognition of all Prince Hall Grand Lodges~~
- 02-11 Listing Prince Hall Grand Lodges in List of Lodges Masonic **FAILED**
- \* 02-12 ~~Declaring Grand Lodges Clandestine~~
- 02-13 Vocational Scholarships **FAILED**
- 02-14 Early Presentation of 50- and 75-Year Pins **WITHDRAWN**
- 02-15 Wearing Officer's Jewels Before Opening Lodge **FAILED**
- 02-16 Pledge of Allegiance **FAILED**
- 02-17 Eliminate Officer Proficiencies **FAILED**

\*Declared out of order by grand master

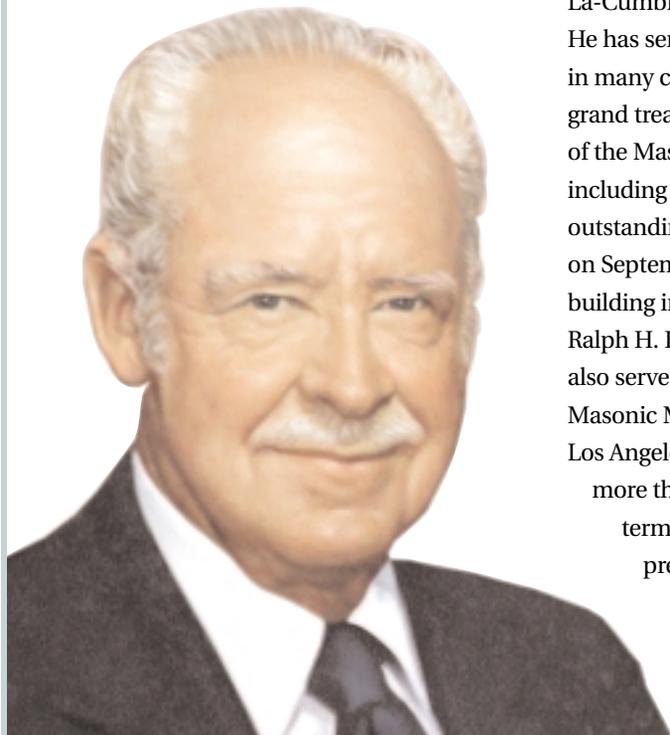
# 2002/2003 GRAND LODGE OFFICER PHOTOS

LISTED IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE FROM LEFT TO RIGHT (STARTING ON PAGE 6)

- ① Frederick L. Sorsabal, Junior Grand Warden (26)  
M. William Holsinger, Grand Master (259)  
Howard D. Kirkpatrick, Deputy Grand Master (254)  
David R. Doan, Senior Grand Warden (369/807)
- ② Harold A. Macy, Grand Lecturer (769)  
George L. Davis, Grand Chaplain (677)  
John L. Cooper III, Grand Secretary  
(144/325/370/400/467/762)  
Warren J. Blomseth, Grand Treasurer (551)
- ③ Robert S. Watanabe, AGL Division II (58)  
Vernon M. Dandridge, AGL Division III (614)  
Jack M. Rose, AGL Division IV (428)  
E. Dale Armstrong, AGL Division V (424)  
Robert D. Rowan, AGL Division I (292)
- ④ Robert A. Lovell, Grand Standard Bearer (9/91)  
William J. Bray III, Grand Orator (211/355/542)  
Allan L. Casalou, Assistant Grand Secretary (122/480)  
Howard A. Born, Grand Marshal (259)  
David D. Johnson, Grand Sword Bearer (807)
- ⑤ Franklin C. Ancheta, Junior Grand Steward (5)  
Walter J. Doyel, Senior Grand Steward (303)  
John F. Lowe, Junior Grand Deacon (341/671)  
James S. Whitener, Senior Grand Deacon (338/615)  
William F. Parker, Grand Bible Bearer (626)
- ⑥ Christopher Morris, Assistant Grand Organist (247/366)  
Joseph von Geczy, Grand Organist (42/307/400)  
Gary L. Carmack, Grand Pursuivant (325)  
Lloyd J. Garbutt, Grand Tiler (218)  
Donald R. Taylor Sr., Assistant Grand Tiler (35/771/837)

## In Memory Ralph Humphrey Head 1913-2002

Successful businessman,  
philanthropist, loyal  
churchman, Masonic leader,  
scholar, writer, community  
leader, Ralph Humphrey Head  
died on October 19.



Born March 21, 1913, in Orange, Calif., Ralph had a long association with the Pierce family, eventually becoming President of Pierce Brothers Mortuaries and Pierce National Life Insurance Company.

Ralph was made a Mason in Sunset Lodge No. 352 in Los Angeles in 1935, and served as its master in 1942. He also became an affiliated member of Magnolia La-Cumbre Lodge No. 242 in Santa Barbara. He has served the Grand Lodge of California in many capacities, including grand orator, grand treasurer, and for 25 years as a trustee of the Masonic Homes of California, including several terms as president. For his outstanding service to the Masonic Homes, on September 18 of this year the main building in Union City was dedicated as the Ralph H. Head Administration Building. He also served as a trustee of the California Masonic Memorial Temple, and served the Los Angeles Masonic Service Bureau for more than 60 years, including many terms as a director and three terms as president.

He was a member of the Board of Governors of the Los Angeles Unit of the Shriners Hospitals for Children. In 1942, Ralph joined the Los Angeles Valley of the Scottish Rite, and later served as venerable master of the Lodge of Perfection, and as wise master of the Chapter of Rose Croix. In 1949 he was honored with the rank of Knight Commander of the Court of Honour, followed by being coroneted an Inspector General Honorary of the 33° in 1957. In 2001, he was accorded one of the highest honors in the Scottish Rite, that of Knight Grand Cross of the Court of Honour.

It is perhaps for his 28 years as editor of the California Freemason magazine that Ralph will be remembered best.

The Grand Lodge of California recognized the tremendous impact that Ralph has made on Freemasonry by honoring him in 1985 with the coveted title of Mason of the Year.

He and his wife, the former Miss Frances Towler, had been married for more than 62 years at the time of his death. ✨

# Rebuilding Freemasonry After an Era of Suppression

## Southern California lodges support effort to assist Hungarian Grand Lodge

Before World War I, Hungarian Freemasonry boasted more than 7,000 members. When the communists assumed control immediately after World War I, most private property was nationalized, government co-ops were formed, and Freemasonry was quickly dissolved by government decree. Only 300 Masons remained after that disastrous era. Following World War II, Freemasonry started to flourish, and membership slowly climbed to 1,500. The growth was cut off in 1950, however, when communist rule overtook all of Eastern Europe, and Hungary completely lost its independence. Again, Freemasonry was forbidden.

For nearly 40 years, the lodges were dark. In 1989, 11 members of the Hungarian lodges disbanded under communism petitioned the new Hungarian government to again permit Freemasonry in the country. Permission was granted and with the help of the Grand Lodge of Austria, the new Grand

away as San Diego and Hemet gathered at the Santa Monica Masonic Center to support this effort.

About \$3,000 was raised as a result. The funds will be used to purchase sorely needed lodge furniture and regalia. The benefit was organized by Joseph von Geczy, grand organist. The Santa Monica

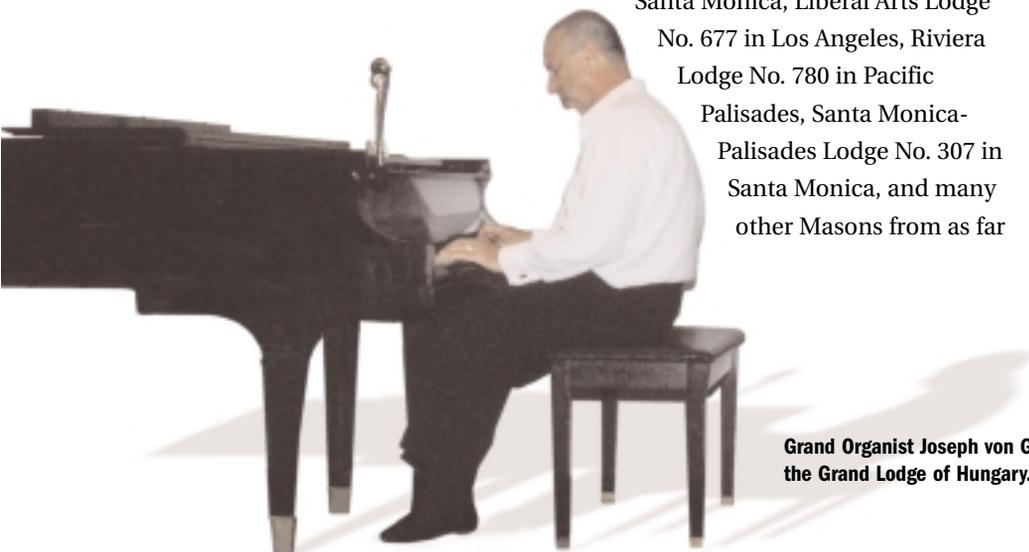
Attendees enjoyed the music of Joseph von Geczy at the piano. One striking piece was "Victory," composed by von Geczy and dedicated to those who believe that "freedom is the greatest thing in the universe."

Lodge of Hungary was formed. For the past 13 years, Hungarian Masons have struggled to establish themselves by gaining members and raising funds.

In October, five Southern California lodges joined in the fund-raising effort with a benefit dinner. Members of Los Angeles Silver Trowel Lodge No. 42 in Santa Monica, Sunset Lodge No. 369 in Santa Monica, Liberal Arts Lodge No. 677 in Los Angeles, Riviera Lodge No. 780 in Pacific Palisades, Santa Monica-Palisades Lodge No. 307 in Santa Monica, and many other Masons from as far

Masonic Center Association donated the facilities, and guests from the local Hungarian community attended.

Attendees enjoyed the music of Joseph von Geczy at the piano. One striking piece was "Victory," composed by von Geczy and dedicated to those who believe that "freedom is the greatest thing in the universe." The grand finale, the Second Hungarian Rhapsody, by Brother Franz Liszt, garnered a five-minute standing ovation. In addition to Brother von Geczy's contributions, his sister, Olga Geczy, an accomplished painter, offered a number of her paintings for sale with 20 percent of the proceeds going to aid the cause. ✧



**Grand Organist Joseph von Geczy plays for guests at the event to benefit the Grand Lodge of Hungary.**

## Dialogue Between Ernst and Falk

### Lessing addresses Masonic relief in the 18th century

John L. Cooper III, grand secretary

Masonic relief for the less fortunate as an organized activity is often thought to be a modern phenomenon. Many people think of Masonic charities such as the Shriners Hospitals or the Scottish Rite Language Disorder Centers as a purely modern invention within Freemasonry, something newly created in the 20th century to “reach out” to the non-Masonic world through organized charity. It may come as a surprise to learn that “Masonic outreach” is more than two centuries old, and a commentary on its function within Freemasonry is found in a powerful Masonic work published in Germany in 1778.

Gotthold Ephraim Lessing was a contemporary of other distinguished Freemasons such as George Washington and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. As a representative of the German Enlightenment he was almost without equal.

In 1778, he wrote “Ernst und Falk,” a dialogue patterned after Plato’s dialogues. Falk is a Freemason, and when the dialogue opens, he is engaged in a conversation with his friend Ernst. Ernst says to Falk, “Are you a Freemason?” Falk responds, “I believe myself to be one.” Falk agrees that he was initiated a Mason in a Masonic lodge, but insists that this is not the real reason that he claims to be a Mason. Falk says, “I believe myself to be a Freemason — not so much for the reason that I was initiated by older Masons in a warranted Lodge, but because I understand and perceive what Freemasonry is and why it is.” Ernst is intrigued with what Freemasonry means to Falk, and Falk is glad to explain it.

One part of the dialogue is especially intriguing in our present discussion of Masonic relief. Falk, when challenged by Ernst to recount the things that Freemasons do for others — as opposed to themselves — is treated to a litany of Masonic philanthropies of the day: a founding hospital in Stockholm, a workhouse for poor young girls in Dresden, a school for poor boys in Brunswick, and a free public school in Berlin.

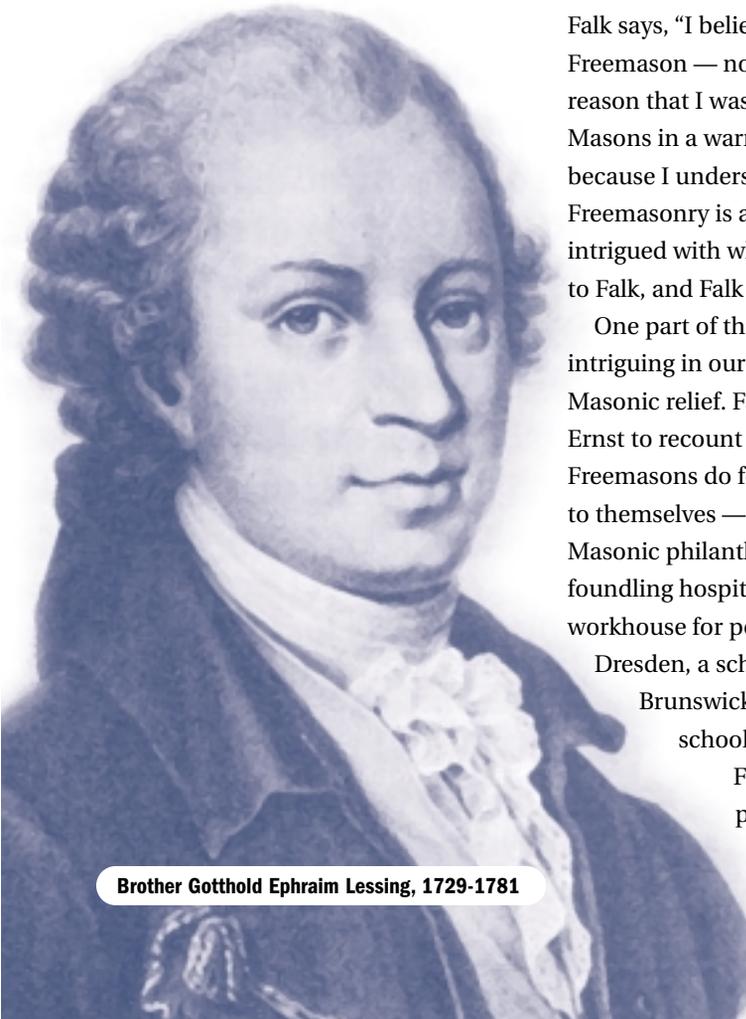
Falk is modest, but Ernst presses him to admit that Freemasons do

all this for the publicity they receive. Falk vehemently denies this, saying, “The real deeds of the Freemasons are so great, look so far ahead, that whole centuries could pass by before one was able to say, ‘That have they done!’” Ernst closes this part of the conversation with a riddle: “Good deeds...aim at making good deeds superfluous.”

Think carefully about the meaning of this riddle as you read about Masonic relief. Lessing is saying that good deeds are not just done to relieve a temporary distress, but rather to set in motion things that will ultimately make those deeds superfluous. In Lessing’s day there were no hospitals for the poor; but Freemasons started them, and soon society came to accept responsibility for medical care for the poor. In Lessing’s day there were no widespread public schools; but Freemasons created them, and soon society came to accept its responsibility for free public education.

Freemasonry believes in equality of men before God, and in 1776, a new political society took its place among the nations of the earth based on Masonic principles. Freemasons founded the Shriners Hospitals when children suffered from infantile paralysis. When that dread disease had been conquered, they helped children with other needs.

Freemasonry is thus much more than a “relief society,” dedicated to doing good works. It is an idea and an ideal — a force for good that changes the world for the better. And it has been doing so for almost 300 years. ✧



Brother Gotthold Ephraim Lessing, 1729-1781

# The MIDNIGHT MISSION

*A testament to the power of Masonic relief*

**P**roviding relief to a brother in distress has been an essential tenet of Masonry from the beginning. Although work in the craft was dangerous, a Mason knew that his brothers would provide aid if he was injured and that his widow and orphans also would receive assistance.

Giving relief was also a concern of the lodges being established in the colonies. The oldest known record of American Masons setting aside money for the purpose of relief is found in the 1733 bylaws of the first lodge in Boston: Monthly every member shall pay at least two shillings more per quarter to be applied as charity towards the relief of poor brethren.

Masonic relief in the United States has paralleled the evolving needs of American society. In a Short Talk Bulletin, S. Brent Morris writes: "When food and shelter were immediate and almost daily concerns, Masons responded with firewood and the fruits of their harvests. When care of the aged, widows, and orphans were worries, Masons erected retirement homes and orphanages. When education was needed, Masons built schools, and when these basic needs moved ever further from common experience, Masons turned their philanthropy to crippled children, burn victims, the speech and language impaired, cancer patients, and others."

As relief for a brother or his family has become less necessary in modern society, Masons have put the teachings of relief into practice outside the fraternity. Relieving the suffering of those less fortunate today often means giving aid to those who appear to be hopeless.

One of the most significant examples of such relief is The Midnight Mission. Founded in 1914 by Brother Tom Liddecoat, a lay preacher with 40 years of welfare work experience, The

Midnight Mission has continuously served the needs of the homeless in the Skid Row district of Los Angeles for almost 90 years. The story of The Midnight Mission and how it has evolved to meet the changing needs of society's outcasts is more than an inspiring story — it's a testament to the enduring strength of this basic Masonic belief.

## **Relief was a meal**

Originally, the Mission's purpose was to spiritually rescue Los Angeles' downtrodden. A meal was served at midnight following hours of religious sermons, thus the origin of the name.

For the first few years, operating funds to provide the meals came from Liddecoat. When he could no longer afford to keep the Mission open by himself, Brother Liddecoat established a governing board of five prominent Los Angeles Masons, who continued to provide relief with funds from their own pockets.

By 1929, an expanded board of directors (all of whom were Masons) realized that more than meals were necessary to provide relief in a meaningful way. The Mission's focus shifted to helping men and boys rehabilitate themselves by restoring their self-respect, self-support, and self-confidence through a recovery program grounded in the 12-step principles. Religious services were no longer a requisite. The meal was changed to early evening, and shower facilities, barber services, clean clothes, and sleeping accommodations were added. A training program to develop marketable work skills also was established.

Today the Mission is one of the largest and most efficiently operated institutions of its kind. Its focus is helping people break cycles of welfare-dependency and self-destruction. A broad range of emergency and rehabilitation services are

available for those who want to get off the streets and back into mainstream society.

“This charity would not exist without the efforts of brothers who are dedicated to the Masonic principle of relief,” says Brother Larry Adamson, Midnight Mission president and chief administrative officer. “In the Mission’s history, all but seven of the 82 board members have been Masons. And, starting with the founder, Masons have led the charity at the management level.”

The tenure of board service for many of the Masons signifies their commitment to making a difference. Ellsworth Meyer, past grand master, served 35 years; Myron Smith, past grand master, served 44 years; and Ralph Head (see memorial on page 9) attended 99 percent of the meetings during his 41 years on the board. Steve Doan, current board chairman and past grand master, has served 18 years.

### Relief without judgment

The Midnight Mission’s operating philosophy is unique among social service agencies for three reasons. First, an individual does not have to meet any qualifications or have a specific need that matches a service provided by the Mission. If the Mission does not provide a specific service, the individual will be

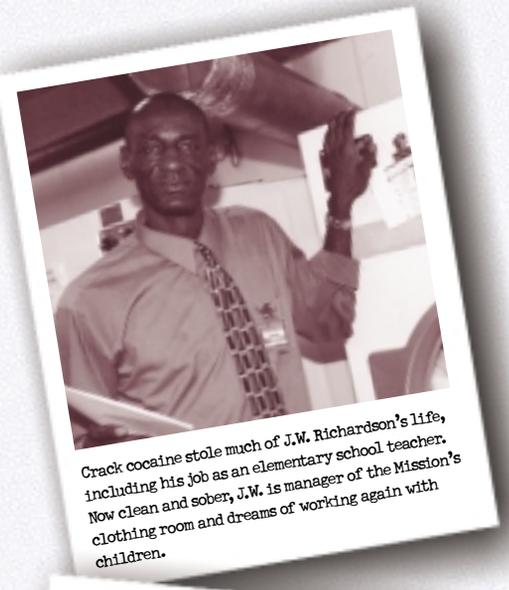
connected to another resource rather than turned away. Second, the Mission allows clients to stay as long as necessary, generally 12 to 18 months, to become self-sufficient. Government-funded programs typically, have time limits of 30, 60, or 90 days, then the client may be on the street again. Third, the Mission does not accept government funds. Individual donations make up 88 percent of the operating income; the remainder comes from corporate and charitable foundation contributions.

“Our operating policies and the way we deal with transient guests and program clients are based on Masonic principles,” says Adamson. “We extend relief in this community without judgment, without restrictions, and without government funds.”

Just who are the Mission’s clients and what are their needs? Thirty years ago, the typical client was male, about 60 years old, suffering from alcoholism. The Mission provided subsistence and a place of dignity to live out the remaining days of his life.

Today’s typical client is still male, but the average age has dropped to 35. Clients have more serious and difficult drug dependency issues. The average length of chemical dependency is 19 years, so the need is not just getting these clients sober, but helping them function as adults.

Continued on page 14



Crack cocaine stole much of J.W. Richardson’s life, including his job as an elementary school teacher. Now clean and sober, J.W. is manager of the Mission’s clothing room and dreams of working again with children.



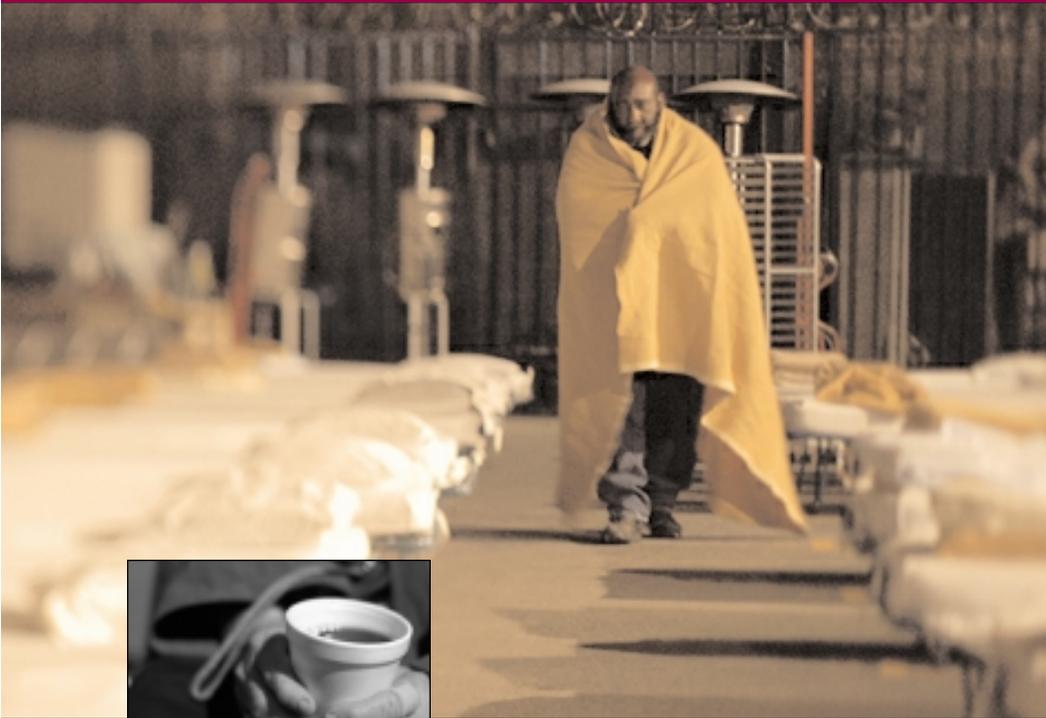
Ilda Gonzalez fled her home with her two daughters to escape her abusive husband. During 18 months at The Midnight Mission Family Housing Complex, Ilda saved \$16,000 and bought her own home.



Brett Kelly, facilities superintendent, achieved sobriety four years ago at The Midnight Mission, after 20 years of drug and alcohol addiction. He credits his salvation to the Mission’s recovery program.

## SKID ROW REALITIES

- \* The Los Angeles Skid Row district—12 square blocks—is the largest in the United States.
- \* It has 13,000 homeless people, 8,000 to 10,000 of whom are chronically homeless.
- \* 4,000 to 5,000 sleep each night on the streets and in doorways.
- \* Families used to make up 5% of this group; now they’re 20%.



The primary focus of The Midnight Mission today is rehabilitation, to bridge the gap where many of the clients have struggled with their ability to function in mainstream society. Not all are addicted. For those who are, the biggest challenge isn't getting them off a substance; it's instilling techniques for coping in society and taking responsibility for themselves so they don't revert to destructive patterns.

### Lives are given purpose

The Mission runs on the talents of those seeking help. Residents are offered jobs at the facility four to six weeks after entering the program. In addition, everyone has work duties and must perform community service hours, such as cleaning up the streets in the immediate area.

"The Masonic belief of taking responsibility for oneself and seeking self improvement is at work here," says Steve Doan. "We want the Mission to stay on the cutting edge of helping men and women rehabilitate themselves."

While the clients are primarily male, one changing dynamic is the number of

women seeking protection and assistance. "A major challenge today is addressing the needs of a large number of abused and abandoned women with children who are unschooled, unclothed, and unfed," says Larry Adamson. "Fifteen years ago, 10 percent of our clients were women and children. Today it's about 20 percent and growing."

To adapt to this growing need, The Midnight Mission established the Family Housing Complex in Inglewood, Calif., which provides safe transitional housing, counseling, and financial management and life skills development so the family can leave the program with a substantial savings account.

"It's Masonic philosophy in action, touching one person at a time," says Dr. Ron Koretz, Master Mason and Midnight Mission board member. "The approach is to offer more than just food. We provide both a fish and a fishing rod."

When asked what he feels is his greatest accomplishment at the Mission, Adamson gives a very modest Masonic response: "Every day a man comes up to thank me, saying he's going back to his life." ❖

## A Legacy of Masonic Management

Tom Liddecoat, founder of The Midnight Mission, was a lay preacher known in the community as "father of the poor" and "bishop of the underworld." He headed the Mission from 1914 until 1933.

When Brother Henry Richmond was named director in 1933, The Midnight Mission was the only Los Angeles agency that could meet the emergency food and housing needs when the Depression hit. It served 9,000 meals daily and housed an average of 2,300 men each night. Richmond oversaw the rehabilitation programs for 38 years until his death in 1971, right after the Northridge earthquake destroyed the Mission's building.

Clancy Imislund, the Mission's third leader, was not a Mason when hired in 1971. "I was so impressed with the men on the board," says Brother Imislund, "I soon asked how I could become a Mason."

For 25 years Imislund compassionately expanded the Mission's programs. With extensive experience in the field of alcohol recovery, he incorporated the 12-step recovery process into the rehabilitation program. Four years ago, when he turned 70, Imislund decided to put his marketing background to work in the new position of managing director for fund raising and public relations.

Following a 22-year career in management with The Automobile Club of Southern California, Brother Larry Adamson became the Mission's first president in 1998. He had served on the board of directors since 1993. Adamson will guide The Midnight Mission as it significantly increases program capacity and expands services to meet still-evolving needs.

## Poised for Growth Again?

### Degree conferrals begin to show positive signs

It has been rumored on the street. There was a feeling it was true, but could it really be so? Yes, it could be — and it is.

Even with fewer lodges, more degrees were conferred in California in 2002 than in the previous year. In fact, not only were the total number of degrees higher, but also degree conferrals per lodge increased 5 percent in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2002. The largest increase was in Fellowcraft degrees, which were up 14 percent.

This is good news in light of the fact that the total membership has been in decline since 1965. Some might say that year was the high point of membership in California Masonry. But total membership is only one way to measure growth and strength of the jurisdiction and its individual lodges. And it might not be the best way.

While total membership peaked in 1965, the number of Master Masons raised that year was down by 60 percent from 1946. Nearly 15,000 Master Masons were raised in 1946; fewer than 6,000 were raised in 1965. The average number of degrees conferred by a lodge in 1946 was 71. By 1965, the average had dropped to 25.

If degree conferrals are an indicator of individual lodge strength, then 1920 could be the best year in California history, when lodges conferred an average of 74 degrees. It is noteworthy that the highest years of degree conferrals followed each of the World Wars.

In 2002, the average lodge conferred eight degrees, which is also historically interesting. More than 100 years ago, during the 20-year period of 1875 to 1894, the average California lodge conferred eight degrees per year. This was down significantly from the previous 20 years (1855 to 1874) even though the population of California was on the rise. The population of Los Angeles and San Diego alone quadrupled in the 1880s.

While historians might make other arguments about the similarities and differences between then and now, during the 1880s and 1890s, the economy of the state was booming due to a technology that linked people and commerce — the railroad. An explosion of new business solutions and inventions resulted, causing profound changes and creating a revolution that could be compared to the technology revolution of the 1980s and 1990s when computer technology and the Internet linked people all over the world and produced possibilities never before imagined.

At the dawn of the 20th century, following a 20-year lull in membership, Masonry in California flourished. Will the same be true for the 21st century? Some say the new American patriotism grown out of the events of September 11 may be as significant as that which followed the World Wars. If growth occurs, it will happen because California lodges capture the spirit of our times, seek out good men, and stand prepared to confer more degrees each year. ✧

## Membership Statistics

### Grand Lodge

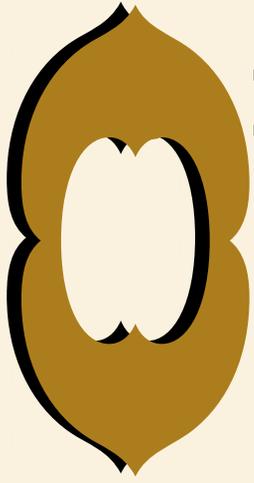
### Free and Accepted Masons

### of California

### Membership Statistics

### July 1, 2001 – June 30, 2002

<b>BEGINNING MEMBERSHIP</b>	86,520	<b>ENDING MEMBERSHIP</b>	82,318
<b>ADJUSTMENTS</b>	(741)	<b>NET GAIN OR (LOSS)</b>	(3,461)
<b>GAINS</b>		<b>OTHER ACTIVITY</b>	
Raised	934	Initiated	1,191
Affiliations (Calif.)	602	Passed	1,005
Affiliations (Other Jur.)	112		
Restorations	206	<b>LODGES LOST TO CONSOLIDATION</b>	7
<b>TOTAL GAINS</b>	1,854	<b>NUMBER OF LODGES ENDING DATE</b>	370
<b>LOSSES</b>			
Withdrawals	929		
Suspensions N.P.D.	1,202		
Suspensions or Expulsions	3		
Deaths	3,181		
<b>TOTAL LOSSES</b>	5,315		



# Made the Whole World Kin

**I**t began as a typical day for Grand Master Motley Hewes Flint. He awoke at the usual hour, ate breakfast, and prepared to leave for his job as postmaster for the city of Los Angeles. Then his telephone rang, and Flint would soon find himself immersed in the most critical relief effort of his life. It was April 18, 1906, and the city of San Francisco had just been devastated by what would be known as the Great Earthquake and Fire.

The next morning, Flint and Grand Orator Oscar Lawler arrived in Oakland on the first train north from Los Angeles. "I believed it was my duty to go to San Francisco at once," Flint said. "[We] found the streets crowded with panic-stricken people from San Francisco, practically all of whom had lost all their earthly possessions."

Almost immediately, Flint and Lawler were at an emergency meeting at the Masonic Temple in Oakland. The magnificent Masonic Temple on Montgomery and Post Streets in San Francisco had by then been evacuated. The 52nd Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter of the Royal Arch was meeting there, but the meeting was abandoned the second day of its session. It would be the last Masonic meeting held in this edifice, which was left in ruins after the fire.

**Only a shell of the Masonic Temple in San Francisco remained after the Great Earthquake and Fire of 1906.**



# OF IN A THE WORLD

With all area banks and most telegraph offices closed, the most immediate problem was to secure cash to fund a relief effort. Postal money orders transferred between Los Angeles and Oakland were the only accessible funds. Grand Master Flint immediately transferred \$3,000 in money orders from his personal accounts.

The funds were used to feed the hungry and shelter the homeless. "Certainly one of the saddest sights I have ever seen was during the first days of our relief work in San Francisco," Flint remembered. "Mothers called to us as we drove through the streets, begging for bread for their children and milk for their babies."

Flint also recalled the story of an older brother and his wife, who wanted to be sent to Cleveland. "The gentleman was a member of the Masonic bodies in Chicago, and was destitute. Further, he was paralyzed from the waist down. I finally secured a good Masonic brother who was strong and rugged and who carried on his shoulders this paralyzed and destitute brother several miles to the ferry and started them safely for Cleveland."

A preplanned cornerstone ceremony on April 21 instead turned out to be the opening of a new food station at King Solomon's Temple near Golden Gate Commandery. Flint recalled, "The next morning in King Solomon's Temple, Grand Orator Lawler and I spent many hours, he cutting slices of bread and I opening cans of corned beef, preparing sandwiches to feed the hundreds of

people surrounding the Temple."

During the five months following the disaster, Flint received 179 telegrams and sent 115. He received 992 letters and sent 1,123. In his words, "I little thought when I assumed the position of grand master that such a responsibility would be forced upon my shoulders." Flint continued to praise the hard work of the local lodge leadership, as well as the generosity of jurisdictions nationally and worldwide.

By September 1, more than \$315,000 had been raised to provide relief following the April disaster. Funds had been sent from all over the country, including the Grand Lodge of New York, which provided the largest amount, \$41,407; and Pennsylvania, which sent \$20,933. Gifts of cash also arrived from Canada, South Australia, Mexico, and Ireland. The hardest work, however, was performed at the site of the disaster, where hundreds of Masons worked for weeks providing relief for Masons and non-Masons alike.

One of the most compelling descriptions of these efforts was that of Harry J. Lask, secretary of the San Francisco Board of Relief. He wrote in his 1906 report at the Annual Communication: "One touch of nature made the whole world kin. As disastrous and sorrowful was the calamity, it had its good effect of making all as one family, and binding the tie of brotherly love and fraternity stronger. It knew no station in life. All, like the teachings of Freemasonry, were of an equality. They met upon the level, and parted on the square." ❖



**Motley Hewes Flint**  
**Grand Master 1905-1906**

**M**otley Hewes Flint was born in Somerville, Mass., in 1863. His family moved to San Francisco when he was a boy, where he received a "limited" education in the public schools. Instead of pursuing a higher education, he decided to begin a business career early, and moved to Los Angeles when he was 21.

Flint soon joined East Gate Lodge No. 3. He became master in 1898 at the age of 33, three years after his older brother. His brother was well-known lawyer Frank Putnam Flint, who went on to become a state senator and leader of the California Republican Party.

Motley Hewes Flint was named postmaster of Los Angeles in 1904, a position he held for six years before continuing his career in the banking industry. In addition to being grand master in 1906, his Masonic career included 25 years as chairman of the Board of Relief in Los Angeles, as well as positions on the board of the Masonic Homes of California and the Endowment Committee.

## Withstanding the Ravages of Force

Relief efforts salvage historic Masonic documents as flood devastates the Czech Republic

Floods stormed through the Czech Republic in August causing \$2.9 million in damages, displacing thousands of people, and washing away a great deal of history in its rampage. The Grand Lodge of the Czech Republic is one of the institutions that suffered extensive losses.

Located in Liben, a district of Prague, the Grand Lodge stood along the river. When flooding commenced on the night



**More than 2,500 books in the Grand Lodge library were nearly destroyed.**

of August 13, it received the full brunt of the deluge, with water reaching the ceiling almost immediately and staying that high for nearly a week.

The lodge offices and library were in the basement of the building. The flood caused complete immersion of more than 2,500 books of the Grand Lodge library, a significant number of which dated back to the 18th and 19th centuries.

“What had been patiently saved by generations of Masons from the devastations of time and war, and which had successfully been hidden away from

the plundering of the Nazis and communists, was engulfed and reduced to nothingness in just a few moments during the night,” said Jacques Huyghebaert, deputy grand master.

When the waters had at last receded, members and volunteers entered the lodge and organized the transportation of what they believed warranted saving.

They focused on salvaging Masonic archives, documents, and books, all of which were floating around in a smelly mass of muddy water. About 90 percent of the items were removed, then washed with clear water to remove mud, individually packed in plastic foil, transported to a cold-storage facility, and kept at a temperature of -4°F.

Since the flood, support has been forthcoming. Approximately \$10,000 was donated from a number of Grand Lodges in the United States, as well as a combined \$4,000 (U.S.) donated from Freemasons in France, Belgium, Holland, and Germany. The Grand Lodge of California contributed \$5,000.

“We intend to use the funds for the restoration of the 2,500-book library, which is currently deep-frozen in a cold-storage room owned by one of our brothers,” said Huyghebaert.

Masonry in the Czech Republic dates back to 1741. It has endured political suppression during the Austrian Empire, as well as communist pressure in 1948

that led to the dissolution of Czech Masons in 1952. After the fall of the Berlin Wall, Masonry regained recognition from the government.

In 1990, the Czechoslovak Grand Lodge was revived by 28 of the surviving pre-1948 members.

According to Huyghebaert, the tragic flood has reinforced fraternity between Czech Masons and has forced them to re-focus on the core values of Masonry.

Huyghebaert reflects that time, nature, and political events have periodically destroyed the material objects that are believed so important. He says this is the time to remember our ritual, which teaches us that “Freemasonry, notwithstanding, has still survived.”



**A volunteer works to salvage Masonic books from the library of the flooded Grand Lodge of the Czech Republic.**

## More Than a Passing Thought

Reaching out to widows every day of the year



**Sally Kirkpatrick (left), a widow who lives in the Masonic Home at Union City, is assisted by Audrey Smart in Clinic-Health Center Transportation.**

Can you imagine what it's like to be an 85-year-old woman living alone for the first time? Can you imagine how difficult it is to go grocery shopping when an individual has difficulty walking and is unable to drive?

Many of our elderly widows can imagine these struggles all too well — in fact, they live them. Approximately 25 percent have no children or living family to help them meet these challenges. Recognizing elderly widows' potential isolation and vulnerability, the Masonic Homes will expand outreach services to this segment of the fraternal family.

The Homes offer several programs and services for elderly members and widows, including admission to the Masonic Homes, information about and referrals to senior services in each county, and Masonic Outreach Services (MOS). MOS provides monthly financial assistance to enable members and widows to remain in their own homes or in retirement facilities in their own communities.

The Homes serve eligible members and widows who apply for admission to the Homes or MOS, but this represents only a fraction of those in the fraternal family. The primary obligation to care for an elderly widow rests with the lodge. The majority of lodges have procedures in place for keeping in touch with their "sweethearts." However, it is the spirit in which the efforts are performed that determines their effectiveness.

In light of your Masonic obligations, ask yourself these questions: Is care taken to ensure that widows are not alone for the holidays?

If a widow doesn't respond to an invitation to an event, does anyone follow up with a call or visit?

In the case of lodge consolidation, have you verified that all widows have been accounted for? Do the widows associated with your lodge have the information and support they need to make informed decisions about their future? Are they aware of the programs and services offered through the Masonic Homes?

Ken Nagel, vice president of the board of trustees of the Masonic Homes, best expresses our shared obligation to the widows entrusted to our care: "Our promise to our widows should evoke a heartfelt desire among us to maintain a program that is a yearlong commitment, not just a passing thought during the holiday season. We must be vigilant in our efforts to provide continued contact with our widows and to help battle those feelings of loneliness and despair. Upon a brother's passing, it is imperative that his wife have the support and care that we desire our own wives or mothers have upon our passing. A simple gesture made by a brother will go a long way in demonstrating to our widows that they are not forgotten — they are members of our family 365 days a year." 

## NEWS YOU CAN USE

### New Alzheimer's unit

On November 5, 2002, the new Alzheimer's and dementia unit, Traditions, opened on the Union City campus.

Before admission, applicants will undergo a comprehensive assessment. Some individuals will also receive a full neuro-psychiatric assessment. Traditions is designed to serve individuals with mid-level Alzheimer's disease, when they are mobile but need help with the activities of daily living.

For more information about Traditions, call **800/342-2979**.

### Admission to the Homes

If you or a family member are considering applying for admission or want to know more about the Homes, call Union City in Northern California, **800/342-2979**, or Covina in Southern California, **866/627-6642**, or visit [www.masonichome.org](http://www.masonichome.org). Applicants to the Homes 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 with monthly income supplements. MOS recipients are required to sign an Agreement to Repay, which states that once an individual no longer receives MOS, all or a portion will be repaid if he or she has the means to do so.

Another MOS program, the Community Information and Referral Program, provides referral information for resources such as housing options, insurance coverage, and more. For more information on MOS, call **800/342-2979, ext. 1206**.

# Early Impression

One man's journey from the Covina Children's Home to retirement at Union City

**W**hen a Mason earns affectionate nicknames such as Pop and Candy Man during his lifetime, you know he must be a special individual. And so it is with Lauryn Taylor, age 86, a Master Mason. He and his wife, Laura, took up residence at the Masonic Home at Union City in the spring of this year.

Lauryn is the first known member of the fraternity to live his early years at the Masonic Home for Children at Covina and then choose the Masonic Home at Union City when it was time to enter a retirement community.

Lauryn Taylor and his brothers, Vaughn and Floyd, were placed at the Home for Children by their father, an Alameda city firefighter and Mason, who was unable to care for them after their mother died.

When he came to live at Covina in 1921, Lauryn was just five years old. He remained there for 12 years, during which he earned the nickname Pop.

Lauryn recalls that time with great fondness and gratitude to the brotherhood. "The Masons took such good care of us," he recalls. "All of the other children at school were envious of the kids from the Home. It was during the Depression, but we always had food to eat and clothes to wear. We were lucky. Many of our classmates weren't as fortunate."

Lauryn took away from the Home more than an appreciation for his food and clothing. He learned a skill in the Covina woodworking shop that led to his life's work as a machinist for the Muni railroad, the Navy Yard at Hunters Point, and the San Francisco Water Department. When he was not working, his hobby was

designing and executing beautiful wood and pewter objects. His candleholders, vases, gavels, and clocks grace the Taylors' apartment at the Union City campus.

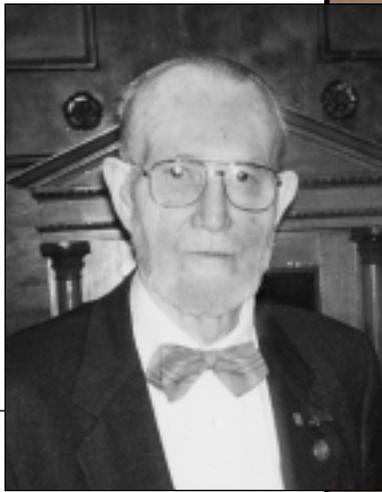
Also formed at Covina was an ardent desire to become a Mason. "I wanted to be able to do for others what had been done for me," he says. That wish was fulfilled when he became a Mason on his son's first birthday, in 1945. This marked the formal beginning of his long and distinguished commitment to Masonry.

Lauryn's contributions to Masonry are significant and numerous, and include serving as master of George Washington Lodge No. 525 in San Francisco (now Brotherhood Lodge No. 370), working as a candidates' coach, and serving as a member of the Masonic Homes Endowment Board. He has also been a guest speaker at many Bay Area lodges, which he visited to talk about the Covina Children's Home. Lauryn's contributions were formally recognized in 1988, when he received the prestigious Hiram Award.

When Lauryn and Laura Taylor could no longer care for their home the way they used to, they chose the Masonic Home at Union City as their retirement community.

**Lauryn Taylor is so proud of the day he became a Mason that he still has the cancelled check from his first membership fee.**





Their association with Masonry has enriched their lives. Laura has held many offices in Eastern Star, and Lauryn has served as patron three times. They knew they wanted to spend their retirement years in a community of residents who share common beliefs built on the solid foundation of Masonic ideals.

Before they moved onto the Union City campus, Lauryn Taylor was already affectionately known around the Home as the Candy Man. For many years when he and Laura visited her sister who resided at the Home, he brought candy to the residents. He still keeps a candy basket, which is embroidered with his nickname, in his apartment. It is one small way Lauryn continues to show his gratitude and repay the kindness shown to him and his family when they were very much in need 80 years ago and they turned to the Masons for relief. ✨

**In 1921, 5-year-old Lauryn "Pop" Taylor (right) and his brother Vaughn, 7, came to live in the Children's Home at Covina, where Lauryn developed a strong desire to become a Mason. Above, Lauryn retires to the Masonic Home at Union City in 2002.**



# Young Faces Brighten Annual Communication

## Covina children express gratitude to members

During the public opening of the 153rd Annual Communication, the children who currently reside in the Masonic Home at Covina demonstrated that the Masons of California continue to inspire and motivate them through their generosity and example.

*“Watching the exchange between the Masons and the children they support was truly the most rewarding experience of my career at the Homes.”*

Frederick Sorsabal, former president of the board of trustees and newly elected junior grand warden, introduced a 12-minute video highlighting the children's program. The video brought the faces of Masonic relief to life for everyone in attendance.

After the video, 46 children and 19 staff members came up to the stage, where John Howl, executive director of the Covina campus, presented Grand

Master C. Ray Whitaker and Joyce Whitaker with a check for their scholarship fund for learning-disabled children. Grand Master Whitaker was also presented with a white lambskin apron in a shadow box, a reproduction of the original article from the 1917 dedication of the Home, and a picture of all the children. Nine-year-old

Harry Vanetta, a three-year resident of the Homes, expressed simply, clearly, and genuinely the heartfelt emotions of all the children when he offered a resounding “Thank you.”

On Monday, the children and staff members spent time at the Masonic Homes booth introducing themselves and

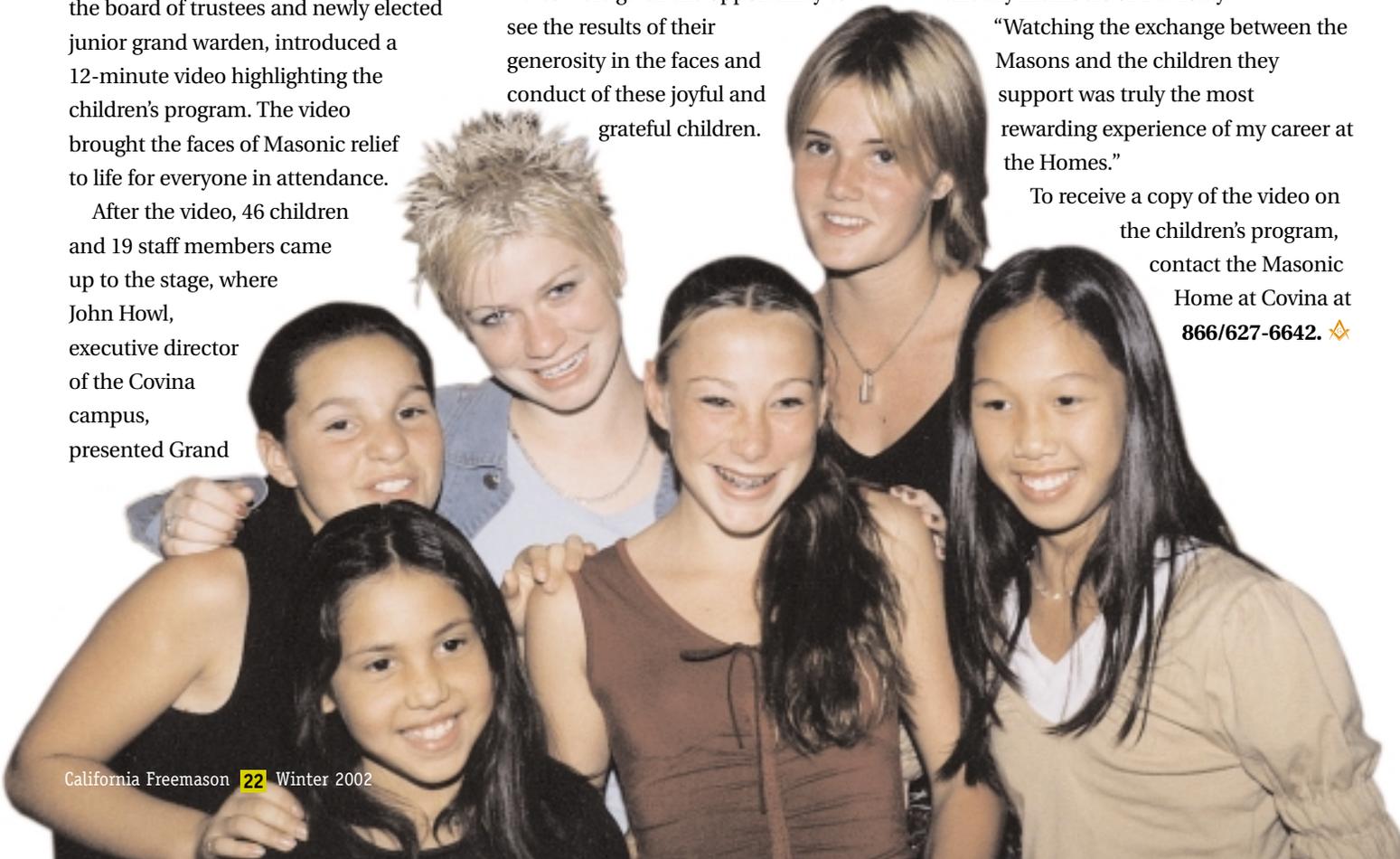
answering questions. Masons and their wives were given the opportunity to see the results of their generosity in the faces and conduct of these joyful and grateful children.

Barbara Ten Broek, director of children and community services, summed up the special event this way: “I was overwhelmed with pride watching the children introduce themselves and witnessing the shared smiles and hugs. Most importantly, hearing so many positive comments about how visitors enjoyed meeting the children and how impressed they were with their behavior is something I will long remember.

“I believe having the children and Masons spend quality time together in this type of setting allowed the adults and the children to gain better understanding of each other. The best part is that many of the girls who have previously not been interested in joining Rainbow for Girls or Job's Daughters are now clamoring for more information, and 13 of the boys are already members of DeMolay.

*“Watching the exchange between the Masons and the children they support was truly the most rewarding experience of my career at the Homes.”*

To receive a copy of the video on the children's program, contact the Masonic Home at Covina at **866/627-6642**. ✦



Independence

## *Masonic Relief in Action*

Photo courtesy of Dudley Davis, 32°



*For seniors who wish to remain in their own homes  
or community, there is another choice:*

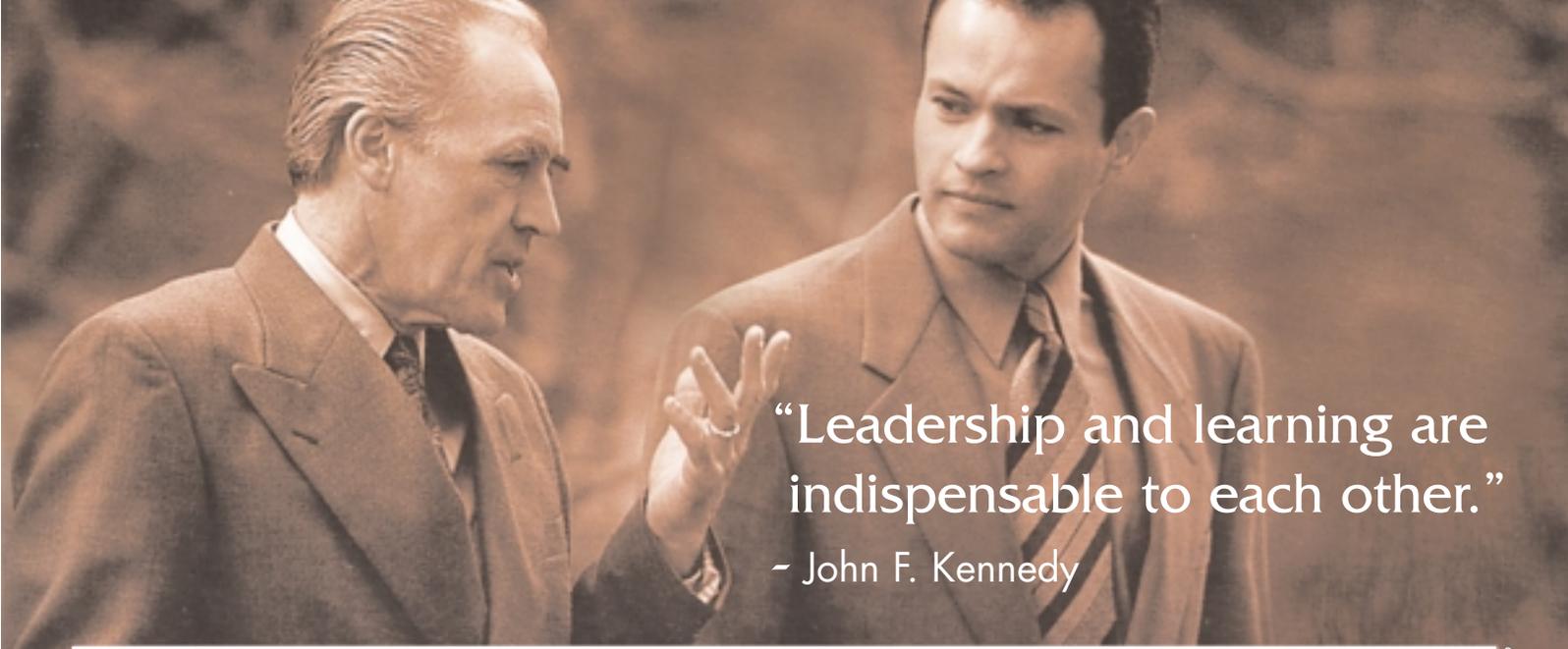
### **MASONIC OUTREACH SERVICES (MOS)**

MOS helps support your independence and dignity by providing:

- Information and referrals to senior services in your county
- Financial assistance for those with demonstrated need

For information on the MOS program, call 800/342-2979, ext. 1206.

Another caring program brought to you by the Masonic Homes of California



“Leadership and learning are indispensable to each other.”

- John F. Kennedy

Photo courtesy of Dudley Davis, 32°

## GRAND LODGE OF CALIFORNIA 2003 LEADERSHIP TRAINING PROGRAMS

### Wardens Leadership Retreats

February 28 – March 2	Senior Warden	San Ramon
March 21 – March 23	Senior Warden	Los Angeles
May 2 – May 4	Junior Warden	Los Angeles
May 16 – May 18	Junior Warden	San Ramon

*Wives are encouraged to attend*

### Secretaries and Treasurers Workshops

February 8	Monterey
March 8	Marysville
April 5	Santa Monica
April 12	Guerneville
April 26	Newport Beach

### Officers Management Workshops

*For all appointed officers*

January 11	San Jose
February 8	Santa Barbara
April 12	Eureka
June 7	Stockton
July 12	San Diego
August 16	Anaheim

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

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