
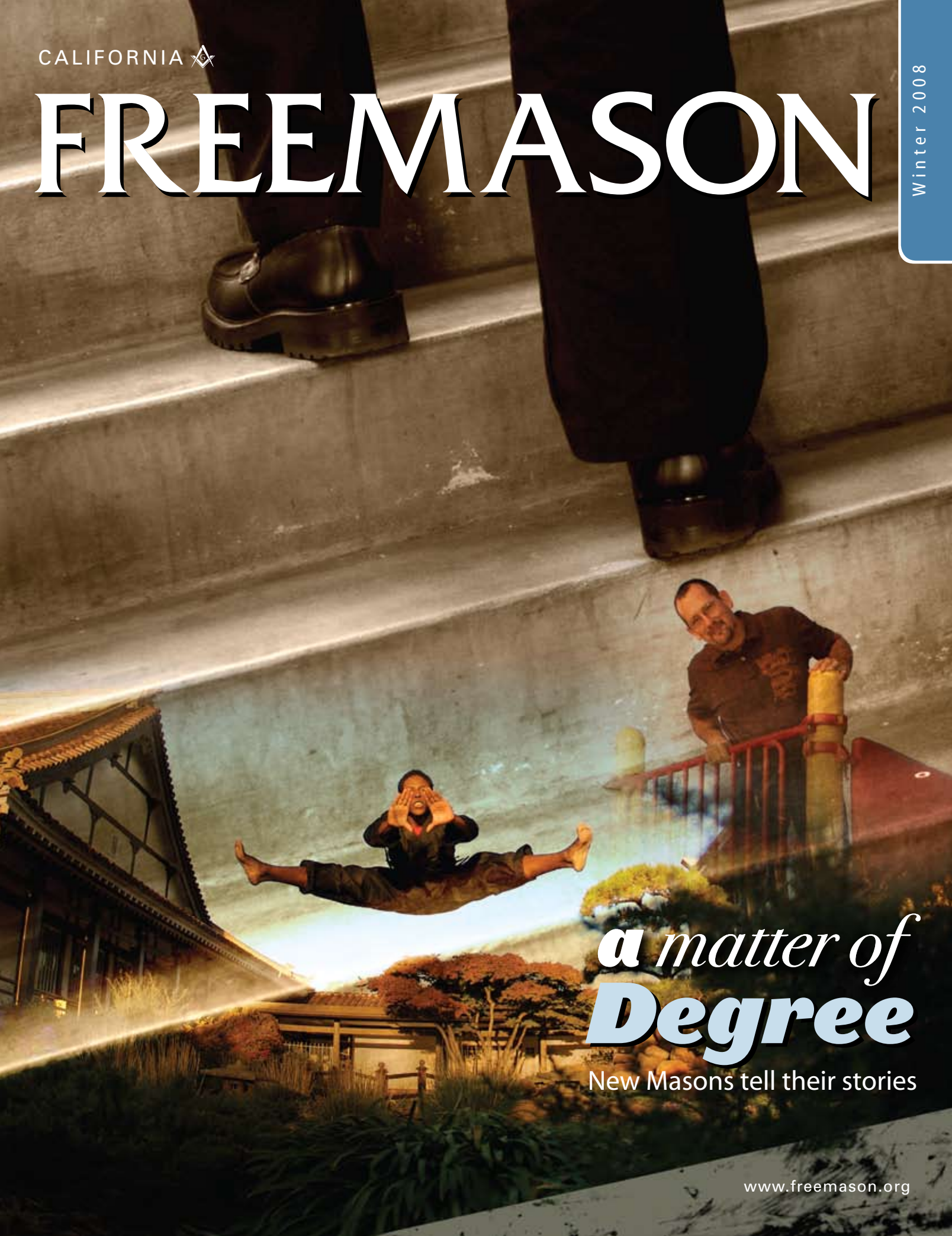


CALIFORNIA 

# FREEMASON

Winter 2008



*a matter of*  
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New Masons tell their stories

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*“feels great to be  
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  - Membership Development
  - Lodge Administration

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# CALIFORNIA FREEMASON

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## 12 Feature Story

While most Masons rapidly advance from the first degree to the second, in some ways the first is the most important degree. It begins the process through which men develop a lifelong bond with Masonry and with their fellow Masons. In our feature story, four new Masons tell us what drew them to the fraternity and their experiences being initiated as Entered Apprentices.

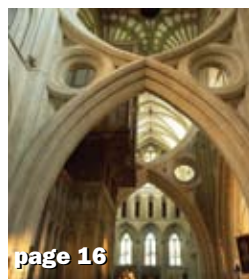
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# THE BEGINNING OF THE MASONIC JOURNEY

“a journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step.” Many of us are familiar with this quote of Chinese Taoist philosopher Lao Tzu.

In Masonry, I believe the first step of the Initiation journey begins in the mind and heart of the future Brother. It can come from one or more of several directions, but following is an example taken right from my life today.

A young man in my town heard of Masonry, read of it, and became interested in the history of it. Eventually, we met and he found that I was a Mason, asked me many questions, read books that I shared with him, and went to several Masonic events with me. He has now applied for the degrees and will shortly be made an Entered Apprentice Mason in my lodge in Visalia.

What will be the next step for this newly made Mason? There is no doubt in my mind that he will be moving forward with his degree work because he knows that the “first step towards getting somewhere is to decide that you are not going to stay where you are.”

I am also confident that he will study and reflect on his new Masonry; that he will grow mentally, intellectually, and philosophically in his knowledge of this new found Craft.

Where will this “new beginning” lead my friend? It will lead him to be a better man, a better husband, a better son, a better brother, and a positive contributor to his community.

He will join a Fraternity of men and their families who are supporting Project T-R-E-E this year. This is the project

of the 2008 Grand Lodge Family and the acronym stands for “Toward Reunification, Education, and Enrichment.” It is a project to enhance and enlarge our efforts to reunify the families from which the children in residence at our Covina Masonic Homes campus come. It will fund the Family Resource Center where the children who are being taught the skills for right living will join with their parents who are being taught the ways and means of right parenting. And the ultimate goal of reunification of these Moms, Dads, and kids into functioning families that are positive contributors to their homes, neighborhoods, and communities will be accomplished.

As my friend’s mind and heart grow with Masonic values, he will find his niche in service to his God and his Brethren. He will be of service to his Lodge as an officer or committeeman. He will share his leadership skills with our Craft and will be a supporter of our Masonic charities. He will join a “kind and gentle Craft” of men who were just like him when their journeys began and who continue to walk the Masonic road today.

Am I sure of all this? Absolutely! That’s just the kind of man my new friend is. ✨

**Richard Hopper**  
Grand Master

## Membership Growth

# *Remains Strong and Steady*

by James Banta

**I**n 2007, California lodges continued the upward trend in degree conferrals, which began seven years ago. Between July 1, 2006 and June 30, 2007, our lodges conferred 4,405 degrees. A breakout of this number reveals that lodges initiated 1,951 Entered Apprentices, passed 1,236 Fellowcrafts, and raised 1,218 Master Masons. At the end of Fiscal Year 2006 [June 30], for comparison, 1,840 Entered Apprentices were initiated, 1,223 Fellowcraft were passed, and 1,197 Master Masons were raised, totaling 4,260 degree conferrals.


California lodges made more Entered Apprentice Masons in 2007 than in any other year since 1988 and our lodges conferred more total degrees than any year since 1991. The

**In particular, the conferral of so many Entered Apprentice Degrees highlights the fact that we are embarking upon an era of exciting progress and unparalleled opportunities in California Freemasonry.**

conferral of so many Entered Apprentice degrees highlights the fact that we are embarking upon an era of exciting progress and unparalleled opportunities in California Freemasonry. In 2002, 1,191 men sought membership with us. By 2007, that number had risen to 1,968. If this trend continues, we will witness more than 2,000 men joining our lodges next year,

reaffirming Masonry's new vitality.

Our membership gains show that men in ever-growing numbers are being drawn to Masonry. There is no reason to believe an end to this trend is in sight. In fact some lodges are redoubling their efforts to be prepared for new applicants with improved Web sites, strong membership committees, and use of the Pass It On program.

A recent study showed that 55% of California lodges are using the Pass It On program. These lodges averaged 14 degree conferrals in 2007, nearly 50% more than lodges not using a membership program. For more information about Pass It On, go to [www.freemason.org](http://www.freemason.org). 

# A Re

## How lodges attract and engage Entered Apprentices

**L**ast fiscal year, 1,951 Entered Apprentices were initiated in California—the greatest number in almost 20 years.

What accounts for this record number of initiates? Officers of several lodges with a high number of Entered Apprentices were asked how they attract and integrate candidates into their lodges.

Personal, welcoming attention was cited by several officers. “As soon as we give a man an application, he’s assigned a Mason about the same age as his buddy,” says Chuck Schubert, Master of Huntington Beach Lodge No. 380. “They discuss the fraternity and lodge activities and attend a meeting together.” The application is not submitted until this thorough introduction is complete.

Temecula Catalina Island Lodge No. 524 has a similar get-acquainted process. Alan Mason, Master, says, “Our membership development team conducts applicant interviews before the applications are submitted. A spouse goes as well to give the family perspective to the applicant’s wife.”

A friendly, welcoming lodge culture draws friends of members. Rolando Esteban, Master of Artesia Sunrise Lodge No. 377, says common interests are a draw as well. “We have some members who ride Harleys and they brought in candidates who also ride. We now have quite a large group of brothers that enjoy riding together as Masons.”

The changes have been positive. Entered Apprentices bring new ideas, energy, enthusiasm for

# cord year

by Terry Mendez

Masonry, and a variety of skills. Long-term members are playing critical advisory roles while the newer members are motivated to execute ideas and take on leadership roles. Lodges with vigorous candidate coaching and Masonic education programs are enjoying renewed involvement and interest in leadership responsibility.

Temecula Lodge has at least two potential appointees for each office and chair, with understudies as backup. Saddleback Laguna Lodge No. 672 has such a large number of motivated new members in line for appointment that a selection process is used to assure a balanced succession plan. "We can now look ahead to what the line will look like in five years," says Erich Kreidler, Master.

Many of the Entered Apprentices of Tujunga Lodge No. 592 are young men who were born in Armenia. "They bring in friends with shared interests and culture," says Don Heller, assistant secretary. "They are motivated to get involved and share officer responsibilities." Due in large part to the robust coaching schedule set by Vartan Manoukian, Fraternal Support Services Ambassador, and officer coach Art Snow, 20 to 40 members are in the officer pipeline.

While setting a record for new initiates is significant, maintaining new member involvement in the lodge and Masonry is critical to the future of the fraternity. Lodges are engaging new members in a variety of ways to involve them with their brothers.

"We ask new members about their interests and expertise, then offer appropriate opportunities to volunteer," says Rolando Esteban of Artesia Sunrise. "We assign lots of responsibilities. For instance, we cook from scratch rather than ordering the meal for a meeting. Everyone gets involved."

Saddleback Laguna Lodge holds a lodge beautification work party every quarter or six months, assigns specific roles in degrees, and holds a monthly Masonic education program, one for every level.

John Gregory, Master of Lemon Grove Lodge No. 736, points to a variety of ways to retain new member involvement and interest. "We instill the need to continue to learn about Masonry and hold both formal and informal Masonic education programs. The main benefit is the formation of friendships, a primary reason men join the lodge." ❖

## Tips for attracting candidates

Seven lodges responsible for initiating a total of 1,951 Entered Apprentices last fiscal year offer tips on attracting candidates:

- \* Make Masonry accessible with a lodge Web site that generates queries when someone searches for Masonry in your area.
- \* Respond to all email and phone queries; follow up on all leads and referrals from other lodges. Take time to explain the fraternity and answer questions.
- \* Provide Masonic education that enables new members to talk knowledgeably and comfortably about the fraternity.
- \* Foster a friendly and welcoming lodge culture.
- \* Encourage members to invite friends to open and community service events so they experience the culture of friendship and participation.
- \* Use the wallet brochure—it's the best member development tool.
- \* Use the "On The Level" program.
- \* Be involved in other community organizations, such as the Chamber of Commerce.

**Opposite: Weekly candidate coaching at Tujunga Lodge No. 592**

# BEGINNING

## THE ENTERED APPRENTICE MASON

**A**ncient Craft Masonry consists of three degrees—and no more: Entered Apprentice Mason, Fellowcraft Mason, and Master Mason. Students of Freemasonry have long known that the second and third degrees evolved from the first one. That makes the Entered Apprentice degree the foundation of Ancient Craft Masonry and, in some respects, its most important degree. As stonemasons laid the first stone of a building in a manner that would ensure the stability of the rest of the structure, so Freemasons today confer the degree of Entered Apprentice Mason so that the beginning of a Mason's life is “well formed, true and trusty.”

The term “Entered” in Entered Apprentice Mason is derived from the custom of officially enrolling an apprentice in the lodge. In operative days this ceremony often took place at age 14, the age at which a young man was entering the threshold of manhood, and could understand the commitments that he was making. Today we have advanced the age to 18, although for many years in California, that age was 21.

Whether the age is 14, 18, or 21, the idea is the same. A young man who is “Entered” in the lodge as an Entered Apprentice Mason has been formally accepted by the lodge as a member,

# NNING THE MASONIC JOURNEY

by John L. Cooper III, Grand Secretary

and he, in turn, has accepted his responsibility as a Mason. The entire ceremony of “Making a Mason,” which is an old term for conferring the first degree of Masonry on an Entered Apprentice, is designed to firmly bind the new Mason to Freemasonry. Of great importance at the beginning of his journey as a Mason is the promise he makes. Often misunderstood, the promise to keep the “secrets” of Freemasonry is really a promise to listen before speaking, to learn before teaching, and to incorporate Freemasonry into one’s life before proceeding. I cannot speak about that which I do not yet know, and I cannot write down the things that I do not yet understand. There is a mystery here—and every Entered Apprentice is taught to make this mystery the first step on his journey.

We often think of Entered Apprentices as young men, and in operative days, they were. Today, in our speculative days, an Entered Apprentice may be of any age. As long as he meets the minimum age of 18 and is capable of “understanding the Art,” he can be made a Mason. Most Entered Apprentices today

Often misunderstood, the promise to keep the “secrets” of Freemasonry is really a promise to listen before speaking, to learn before teaching, and to incorporate Freemasonry into one’s life before proceeding.

are mature men in their late 30s or early 40s. Some are younger, and some are older. But all begin their journey in Freemasonry as an Entered Apprentice and are expected to pursue that journey as long as life gives them opportunity. Chronological age is not a factor; mental age is. And at any age we expect an Entered Apprentice to learn what Freemasonry means, and to incorporate its teachings into his life.

Is anyone truly “too old” to become a Mason? Is anyone truly “too young” to understand the mysteries of Masonry? Consider this:

- Ted Williams, at age 42, slammed a home run in his last official time at bat.

- Mickey Mantle, age 20, hit 23 home runs his first full year in the major leagues.
- Golda Meir was 71 when she became prime minister of Israel.
- William Pitt II was 24 when he became prime minister of Great Britain.
- George Bernard Shaw was 94 when one of his plays was first produced.
- Mozart was just 7 when his first composition was published.
- Benjamin Franklin was a newspaper columnist at 16 and a framer of the United States Constitution when he was 81.

You are never really too old to become an Entered Apprentice Mason—and never too young. Although we set lower limits for applying for the degrees of Masonry, and our mental vigor sets the upper limits, between these two poles an Entered Apprentice begins his Masonic journey. Whenever you began yours—young or old—you still have time to realize in your life the meaning of becoming an Entered Apprentice Mason. Today is the first day of the rest of your life. ✧

## A WORLD VIEW



by Thomas Jackson  
Past Grand Secretary of Pennsylvania

## of the Entered Apprentice degree

I have had the opportunity to witness the conferral of a number of degrees and many opening and closing rituals in other grand and subordinate lodges. Most of these were conferred in a language that I did not understand. Nonetheless, I was able to follow fairly well the process that was taking place. What I have learned is that there are probably no two jurisdictions that are exactly alike in their ritual conferral, and yet for those who are familiar with the ritual of Freemasonry, there exists a universal

understanding of what is taking place.

The greatest similarities between grand lodge rituals probably occur in the North American grand lodges, most of which practice the Web Ritual, but even they have made at least subtle changes from the original. All Masons should make the effort to visit other grand jurisdictions, even in North America, to experience the diversity in practice and ritual.

It is important to understand, however, that the end result of all degree ritual is essentially

Freemasonry has endured in an organized speculative form for almost 300 years. It has attracted some of the greatest men this world has ever known.

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the same. This is true with any of the Blue Lodge degrees. It is of a more paramount importance when applied to the Entered Apprentice degree, for it is here that we create that first impact. The diversity in jurisdictional ritual is like taking multiple pathways to reach the same destination. This is a part of the beauty of Freemasonry, for we can take men from all stations of life and through our ritual, even with jurisdictional variables, lead them to our ultimate goal of making them better men. My brothers, with this philosophical approach we have changed the world.

Perhaps the greatest jurisdictional differences that exist in the Entered Apprentice degree are not in the ritual of conferral but rather in the requirements to even qualify to receive that first degree, along with those to pass from it to the degree of Fellowcraft. The stringent requirements in most jurisdictions of the world are far greater than those of any North American grand lodge. They have remained committed to the precept of accepting only the best men they can find and require a commitment from them to attend, to study, and

to learn. In addition, the cost to be a Freemason is considerably higher.

There is one European jurisdiction of which I am aware that rejects approximately 60 percent of all petitioners and they have increased in membership an average of 10 percent a year for the last 12 years. This is probably close to the norm in most European grand lodges. When I was in Iceland several years ago, I learned that their grand jurisdiction had a six-year waiting list to get into a lodge.

In some South American grand lodges, as well as in other foreign jurisdictions, the candidate must wait for a minimum of a year so that his reason for an interest in joining and qualifications to become a Mason can be determined. After he has received his Entered Apprentice degree, he must present several learned papers on Freemasonry to be qualified to take the exam for passing. This is also required before advancing to become a Master Mason. There are very few foreign jurisdictions in which a man can become a Master Mason in less than a year after he is initiated and some take several years.

The result of the stringent requirements, of course, means that the brother in most jurisdictions is not only qualified by a proper interest in the craft but is also far more knowledgeable of the philosophies, precepts, history, and purposes for which we exist.

Freemasonry has endured in an organized speculative form for almost 300 years. It has attracted some of the greatest men this world has ever known. The

initiatory experience must have had a considerable impact in the minds of millions of our brothers. Its influence and theirs have changed the course of civil society. Historians are just now catching up on how much this influence has meant to the evolution of civilization. This all began with that first step to become an Entered Apprentice Mason even with all its jurisdictional diversity.

There is an old cliché with which you all are probably familiar: “You get only one chance to make a good first impression.” This cliché is probably more significant in its importance to Freemasonry than to any application in any other organization. Consider how you felt when you were first received into a Masonic lodge and experienced that Entered Apprentice degree.

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The diversity in jurisdictional ritual is like taking multiple pathways to reach the same destination.

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Have you ever felt a greater impact with anything else you have experienced? I would suspect that many of our former brothers who are no longer with us were lost on that first day due to a less than great impact. It is significant for us to realize that the Entered Apprentice degree is quite probably the most important degree that the member will ever receive or that we can ever confer. ✧



# *a matter of*





Seanjohn Barksdale (opposite top) and Dennis Parle and family (opposite bottom) both entered apprentices in Mt. Moriah Lodge No.292 in Los Gatos.

# Degree

By Richard Berman

## New Masons tell their stories

**A**s the ancient Chinese proverb wisely reminds us, the thousand-mile journey begins with the first step. For Masons, the journey into the craft starts with the first degree, called the “Entered Apprentice” degree, in recognition of the guild system that forms the basis of many of today’s Masonic rituals.

While most Masons rapidly advance from the first degree to the second, in some ways the first is the most important degree because it begins the process through which men develop a lifelong bond with Masonry and with their fellow Masons. Far from simply being a stepping stone to higher levels, being

initiated an Entered Apprentice Mason is a profound experience that imparts lessons that guide Masons throughout their lives.

“For me, becoming a Mason was all about personal introspection and becoming a better person,” says Seanjohn Barksdale, a 22-year-old student at San Jose State University who also works as a martial arts personal trainer. Barksdale became an Entered Apprentice at Mt. Moriah Lodge No. 292 in Los Gatos earlier this year. Like many Masons, Barksdale initially learned about the craft from a friend—and later discovered that many members of his own family

*Continued on page 14*



were deeply involved in Masonic organizations.

"I was introduced to Masonry by a friend who has been like a brother to me since we met five years ago on our college campus. When I had time off from school my great aunt [who has since passed away] and I began to spend a

So as I came to find out about the Masonic history of my family through questioning relatives, they told me that if I wanted to know, I only had to ask."

vast amount of time together on my visits to my hometown of Pittsburg when I had time away from college. As we spoke, she shared stories of friends and her past and informed me that although being a member of a fraternity was a great aspect of college life, true fraternal brotherhood and fellowship that would last a lifetime could be found if I sought it out. So I did. I found that not only was my aunt a Worthy Matron of the local Order of the Eastern Star chapter, but also that my late great uncle was a Mason, as were several

other members of my family. So as I came to find out about the Masonic history of my family through questioning relatives, they told me that if I wanted to know, I only had to ask."

Instead of immediately seeking to join a lodge, however, Barksdale spent considerable time reflecting on his interest before making his first contact with Mt. Moriah Lodge. "I didn't make it an immediate search, as I had found Masonry to be an endeavor that required personal refinement so that I would be adequately prepared to represent the craft in a positive light. I went to lodge dinners for a few months to meet the members, and I also wanted to make sure that I was ready. From there, the rest is history."

Dennis Parle, who lives in Boulder Creek, also joined Mt. Moriah Lodge this year. Unlike Barksdale, the 42-year-old father of five had no family connection to Masonry and only came to know about the craft as part of a lengthy personal spiritual quest. "I have been seeking the truth my whole life, and a few years ago one of my co-workers gave me a copy of the Pike book [Morals and Dogma of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, by Albert Pike] because he knew that I was interested in esoteric topics. I started reading it, but I really didn't know anything about

Masonry. Then I saw a bumper sticker that said, 'If you want to be a Mason, ask a Mason.' Sure enough, I started exploring it, and in July 2007 I became an Entered Apprentice."

The first degree is a challenging stage of Masonry because it represents one's introduction into the Masonic style of learning. Not only can this educational process benefit Entered Apprentice Masons, it can also help more experienced Masons reinforce their knowledge base and strengthen their understanding of the craft. "I have been a Mason only since 2006, but I am already involved with helping newer Masons learn their degrees," says John Sawtelle, Senior Steward of Mt. Moriah Lodge, who is working with Parle. "Dennis is passionate and dedicated to learning the whole degree before giving his proficiency, and his quest for understanding is also helping me learn more."

Sawtelle, who works for International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers local 332, says that as part of Parle's Masonic education they attended a traditional observance lodge in Soquel and actually initiated Parle into the first degree at a ceremony at the Masonic Home in Union City. "It was incredibly meaningful. We had a full house because so many Masons who live in the home joined us. It was

He says that his chief memory of the initiation was that he was participating in an ancient ritual. “It was like a modern-day knighthood to me.”

.....  
absolutely an honor to have them welcome us. Working with Dennis is really opening my eyes to some of the intricacies of Masonry and is making me a better Mason.”

In addition to building up one's knowledge of Masonry, the Entered Apprentice degree also gives new members a chance to meet their brothers and interact with them in a Masonic setting.

Scott Neace became an Entered Apprentice Mason in the Santa Rosa Luther Burbank Lodge No. 57 in September 2007. He says that “I thoroughly enjoyed my experience. During my studies, travels and involvement with my coach, I have met many wonderful men, all of whom have shown me

kindness, trust, and a sense of brotherhood I have never felt before becoming a Mason.”

Despite all of the preparation and learning that goes into becoming an Entered Apprentice, one of the most memorable parts of becoming a Mason is the process of welcoming a man to the lodge. “When I received my letter from Palm Springs Lodge No. 693 saying that I had been selected as a candidate to receive the first degree of Masonry,” says David Pucksoontorn, who works as a correctional officer for the State of California, “it said to arrive no later than 7:00 p.m. duly and truly prepared and knock at the door with a pure heart with the hopes of being accepted into the fraternity. I will never forget the feeling.”

Like many Masons, Pucksoontorn's interest in Masonry stemmed from a combination of family and community connections. “I grew up in Los Angeles and always noticed the Masonic symbols on buildings, and it always attracted me.

In high school I found out that many presidents had been Masons, and when I started working I learned that several other guards were members. I also found out that my uncle, who is someone I've always looked up to as a positive role model for me, is a Mason. I researched a little and told him that I wanted to become a Mason.”

Pucksoontorn says that his chief memory of the initiation was that he was participating in an ancient ritual. “It was like a modern-day knighthood to me. When they asked me in whom I put my trust, I responded ‘my brothers.’ Even though it wasn't necessarily the right answer, I still really feel that way. I come from a Buddhist background, and I thought to myself that ‘this is a brotherhood of men with many different faiths, and we all now share a common bond.’” ♦





By David L. Revels

*the*

# Entered Apprentice

*During the medieval era, learning consisted of on-the-job training. One who chose to become a stone mason would seek out a master to learn from and thus become an “apprentice” to the master. If the master belonged to a guild of stone masons, the apprentice would be “entered” onto the rolls of the guild and thus have his status officially recognized.*

Today there are numerous opportunities to learn a chosen trade through vocational training such as a trade school or career college.

Because the master would have limited time and resources to spend as a teacher, it was not automatic that he would accept to tutor the applicant. He would be highly selective of whom he would take under his tutelage, just as Freemasonry is particular of the character and intentions of its prospective members. Conversely, the master benefited from the labors and assistance of the apprentice. We should also labor and utilize our talents to the benefit of our gentle craft. The obligation, or contract, between a master and apprentice was a two-way commitment. As Freemasons, we are subject to Masonic burdens and responsibilities, as well as entitled to its benefits and privileges.

The apprentice would typically work for the master stone mason for several years. The master would provide lodging and food and, more importantly, the knowledge that could lead to a life-long career for the young man. Masonry is a progressive science, taught by degrees only. The initial tasks assigned to a new

apprentice would generally be as a laborer working with rough, quarried stone. As the apprentice became proficient with his current tasks, he would be assigned more detailed and technical work.

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*Freemasonry, like operative masonry, is an active craft. It requires work, effort, and struggle. The true benefits of Freemasonry are realized when we are able to find practical applications of Masonic lessons and tools within our own lives.*  
.....

The knowledge required to be a master mason involved much more than just working with stone. To design and build large structures required a thorough understanding of science, math, and geometry. The stone mason profession combined the intense physical labor required to work with tons of stone, with significant intellectual capabilities. This would have created an extremely challenging environment for the new apprentice, but it also would

have drawn some to the craft. At the time, education was mostly limited to the very wealthy and religious leaders. Stone masonry was a notable exception. This fact very well could have been one of the reasons men who were not operative stone masons wanted to join stone mason guilds, which led to modern speculative Masonry.

To elevate himself to the next level (that of “journeyman” or “fellow of the craft”), the apprentice would have to serve his master for the minimum time specified in his contract and also display sufficient proficiency in the required work. It was not enough for the apprentice to “know” how to perform his work; he had to actually “do” the work in a satisfactory manner. Freemasonry, like operative masonry, is an active craft. It requires work, effort, and struggle. The true benefits of Freemasonry are realized when we are able to find practical applications of Masonic lessons and tools within our own lives.

The labors of the apprentice were evaluated and judged by his master. Extra attention would have been focused on areas deemed less than stellar. As we apply the tools of Freemasonry, our attentive, personal evaluation allows us to identify areas within our life where we can grow, develop and make changes for the better—thereby moving from the rough, toward the perfect ashlar. ✧

# Book Reviews

Reviewed by Adam G. Kendall, P.M.,  
Curator Henry Wilson Coil Library & Museum of Freemasonry

## Back to Basics: Resources for the Entered Apprentice

The Old Gothic Constitutions  
Wallace McLeod  
Vol. 16, Masonic Book Club,  
1985  
Available from the Henry  
Wilson Coil Library & Museum  
of Freemasonry

Freemasonry owes much to its formative years in the form of the Old Gothic Constitutions, the essential Anderson's Constitutions of 1723 and 1738 (which were influenced by these earlier works), and the collection known as The Old Charges. One would think that this kind of reading would be fairly dry, but such is not the case! These documents are required reading for those who seek deeper knowledge of traditions Bro. Wallace McLeod presents these formative documents with the skill and wit necessary to provide a solid background for the Entered Apprentice as he investigates the depths of our ancient and honorable craft.

Whether one reads these documents in this book or in another is of little consequence; they are to be read simply for the benefits.



## The Entered Apprentice Handbook

The Entered Apprentice  
Handbook  
Published by the Grand  
Lodge of F. & A.M. of  
California  
Available from the Grand  
Lodge Supply Room and  
lodges

This jurisdiction has published one of the finest instructional manuals for the Entered Apprentice degree.

Far from being a chore to read, the handbook deftly illustrates the indispensable practical and philosophical tenets of what it is to be a Mason, including a glossary of Masonic terminology, as well as additional resources for continuing Masonic formation.





By Amy Dobson

## Grand Master's Project Offers New Hope to Children and Families

**T**he Children's campus at Covina is once again broadening the scope of services it provides. Under the auspices of this year's Grand Family Project, the Family Resource Center (FRC) will expand its scope and provide new therapeutic services to potential, current, and former residents as well as their families. Towards Reunification, Education, and Enlightenment the project (TREE) addresses the complex emotional difficulties faced by both children and their guardians.

The project's title, TREE, reflects the FRC's fundamental mission of building strong families. Grand Master Richard Hopper created the acronym after being inspired by the Giant Redwood Sequoias in his hometown of Visalia. These trees, the largest living individual organisms on the planet, cannot survive alone. Given their shallow taproots they must grow in close proximity to other Sequoias so the roots can intertwine and support each other. Grand Master Hopper says the same philosophy can be applied to children within a family. "By teaching kids and their families the rules for right living they can become positive contributing assets to their communities."

Workshops and therapy-based group meetings for residents will cover topics such as anger and

*"By teaching kids and their families the rules for right living, they can become positive contributing assets to their communities."*

stress management, adjustment to out of home care, and sensitivity to cultural differences. Parent education topics include managing aggressive behavior, discipline with dignity, and the healing power of family creative problem solving. Additionally, the program has established Project Fatherhood training which helps strengthen the role of males involved in child rearing. While the greatest benefit of these workshops will no doubt be lessons learned from the subject matter, participants will also gain from connecting with other families going through similar situations. The simple act of realizing they are not alone can provide necessary support and encouragement.

Marissa Espinoza, Director of Children and Family Services, has seen firsthand the importance of reunifying families. "I believe that children want to be with their parents, regardless of the dysfunction in the home or the limitations of their parents. I also believe that parents and guardians do the best that they can with the

tools and skills they have." Many The TREE project incorporates parents and guardians so that family home environments become safe and healthy enough for children to thrive.

If the current results of the FRC program are any indication, the TREE program is sure to be a success. To date, the FRC has reunified approximately 35 families and referred seven children to more appropriate services. The average length of stay for residents is down to two and a half years. Of those who completed the program successfully and graduated high school, seven have matriculated to college—one is in community college, four are in private two year colleges, two are in four year colleges. All of these students are receiving scholarships from Masonic Homes.

Espinoza sees TREE as another step in the evolution of fulfilling the mission of the Covina Children's Program. As she summarizes, "Our ethical responsibility to the families is to assist them in overcoming the barriers that keep them separated so that one day they can be together. Through the support of Grand Master Richard Hopper and the generosity of California Masons, we are improving our communities, one family at a time." ❖

# THE

**W**hen planning for the Acacia Creek communities the Board promised “We will build it if they come.” Well, you have come and so we are building! We are very pleased to announce that the groundbreaking for Acacia Creek took place at Union City on October 7, 2007 with Grand Master Richard Wakefield Hopper and his Grand Family in attendance. The event was attended by over 100 Acacia Creek Founders and families and the excitement was palpable. Visit the website at [www.acaciacreek.org](http://www.acaciacreek.org) to watch the construction live on the Union City Campus via our webcam.

Acacia Creek at Covina is receiving equally strong interest from our fraternal family and currently over 50% of those homes have been reserved. If all goes as planned, we will break ground for that community in early 2008. Stay tuned for the date.

All Founder benefits are still available for Acacia Creek at Covina.

## **FOUNDERS' BENEFITS INCLUDE:**

- 100% refundable entrance fee to protect your financial future and your assets (residents that make a commitment after the deadline for each campus will receive a 90% refund on their entrance fee)
- Priority selection of your new home
- Opportunity to participate in pre-opening resident committees
- Invitations to exclusive Founders' events where you will meet your neighbors and start creating the heart of the Acacia Creek community
- Complimentary washer and dryer
- 8 hours of complimentary move-in assistance

By Amy Dobson

# DREAM becomes REALITY!

Upon completion of this first stage, we will have one hundred and fifty two new homes in Union City; and 120 new homes in Covina for members of the fraternal family in California. In order to reflect the varied needs and tastes of our membership we offer many different floor plans ranging from one-bedrooms of 859 square feet to cottages of 1600 square feet. All homes offer a private deck or patio, full kitchen, washer/dryer and reserved parking.

Mike Neben, Vice President of the Acacia Creek Board of Directors, explains that the Acacia Creek Communities provide an, "opportunity for people who like to live in a beautiful setting with all the privacy and fellowship you desire. This is for brethren and their wives and widows who are interested in preserving their assets, living in a community of like-minded folks and enjoying the peace of mind and security offered through a Continuing Care Retirement Community (CCRC)."

Neben stresses that this project is a complement to the existing Masonic Homes residential and

outreach programs. "I believe that the Acacia Creek communities help round out the continuum of care for our fraternal family. We now have a range of programs that allow our membership to choose the service most suited to their needs and lifestyle."

#### **TO RESERVE YOUR HOME:**

- Make an appointment with an Acacia Creek marketing counselor to review the site plan and select your new home
- Make a 10% deposit on your entrance fee to reserve your residence and receive all the Founders' benefits outlined above.
- Participate in exclusive Founders' events and enjoy the opportunity to meet your new neighbors.
- Pay the balance of your entrance fee at the time of move in

Call us today to experience all the joys of your new home in the company of friends, and with the peace of mind that comes from knowing your care is provided in a manner consistent with our fraternal ideals. ♦

# News *you can use*

## **FRATERNAL SUPPORT SERVICES ▶**

[communications@mhccuc.org](mailto:communications@mhccuc.org), (888) 466-3642

## **MASONIC HOMES WEB SITE ▶**

Visit [www.masonichome.org](http://www.masonichome.org) to read about the latest developments concerning the Homes, initiate an application, download recent mailings, and learn all about the programs and services we provide.

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

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

Our goal is to provide our fraternal family members access to the services and resources they need to stay healthy and safe in their own homes or in retirement facilities in their home communities.

## **OUR SERVICES INCLUDE:**

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

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

## **ACACIA CREEK COMMUNITIES ▶**

For those interested in learning more about the Acacia Creek communities, please visit our Web site at [www.acaciacreek.org](http://www.acaciacreek.org) or contact our offices:

**For Acacia Creek at Covina:**

**Call (626) 646-2962 or (800) 801-9958**

**For Acacia Creek at Union City:**

**Call (510) 429-6479 or (888) 553-7555**

Or e-mail us at [seniorhousing@mhccuc.org](mailto:seniorhousing@mhccuc.org).

## **CHILDRENS SERVICES ▶**

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

**Masonic Home for Children**

**1650 Old Badillo Street**

**Covina, CA 91722**

**(626) 251-2227**

[hrameriez@mhccov.org](mailto:hrameriez@mhccov.org)

## **COMMUNICATIONS ▶**

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



Meet John R. Hernandez  
Musician  
Entered Apprentice since June 2007

## *Faces of Masonry*

*I*t was John Hernandez's quest for guideposts for his life that drew him to Masonry. Because of his lifelong interest in history, he was impressed with the longevity of the fraternity and our enduring tenets.

"Masonry gives me a spiritual and philosophical learning opportunity," says John. "I wanted something deeper, with more than a social connection. The fraternity further facilitates my life mission, which is to heal the world through music and illumination."

A professional musician since 1976, John's group, No Nation, released the rock opera "Illumine" in 2005. John was the

co-creator, producer, engineer and drummer/percussionist. He points out that the opera's message, written before he became a Mason, is much in line with Masonic tenets.

Initiated at Academia Lodge No. 847 in Oakland last June, John, 49, and his wife Martha and daughter Christina live in that East Bay community. He is district sales manager for Roland Corporation, a manufacturer and distributor of electronic musical instruments.



**Masons of California**



## Grand Lodge Officers 2007-2008

### FRONT ROW L TO R:


Paul D. Hennig, Grand Lecturer; Glenn D. Woody, Grand Treasurer; Kenneth G. Nagel, Senior Grand Warden; Richard Wakefield Hopper, Grand Master; Larry L. Adamson, Deputy Grand Master; William J. Bray, III, Junior Grand Warden; John L. Cooper, III, Grand Secretary

### SECOND ROW L TO R:

Christopher Morris, Grand Organist; Donald R. Taylor, Sr., Grand Tiler; A. Glenn MacBride, AGL Division II; Frank E. Lind, Grand Sword Bearer; James J. Nash, Grand Bible Bearer; Arthur H. Weiss, Grand Chaplain; Cline "Cub" Jack, Grand Marshal; Patrick A. Plunkett, Grand Pursuivant; Thomas E. Colgan, Junior Grand Deacon; Douglas B. Eichen, AGL Division IV; Robert Lam, Assistant Grand Tiler

### THIRD ROW L TO R:

Gerald L. Sherikjian, Grand Standard Bearer; Vernon M. Dandridge, AGL Division III; E. Dale Armstrong, AGL Division V; David M. Shira, Senior Grand Deacon; Ricky L. Lawler, Junior Grand Steward; Allan L. Casalou, Assistant Grand Secretary; Stephen R. Miller, Assistant Grand Organist; John V. Lawler, Senior Grand Steward; Mark N. Gibson, Grand Orator; Howard "Bud" Ramsey, AGL Division I; Robert L. Sills, Senior Grand Deacon; James E. Banta, Senior Grand Steward; Fenton R. Mereness, Grand Pursuivant; Jack M. Rose, AGL Division IV; E. Randall T. Freeman, Junior Grand Steward; Maxwell S. Roth, Grand Chaplain;

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

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