

MSOS GAZETTE

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 1

February, March, April

A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Masonic Senior Outreach Clients,
Families and Lodges:

We know that it has been a tough cold and flu season and so we are wishing you all good health in 2018. It has also been incredibly challenging for those affected by the fires and floods in the Santa Barbara area and we are pleased to report that our MOS team has ensured the safety of our clients.

Enclosed in this edition of the Gazette, are the final scores of the 2017 Annual MSOS Satisfaction Survey. We are very pleased with the findings and thank you for your contribution! We hope you enjoy reading our client engagement stories, meeting our new staff, and all of the rest of the interesting articles.


Thank you,
Sabrina Montes



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SHARED HOUSING UPDATE

 In December we had the ribbon cutting and it was a big success! The board was impressed with the finished product and we are now looking forward to opening our doors to our first clients this year. We've been busy putting the finishing touches on both homes and completing the decorating. The homes are coming together beautifully. We anticipate Shared Housing events in the months to come to welcome members to tour the home who may be interested. In fact, after a recent Lodge Outreach Meeting with Division IX we have a planned event in April for these guys to come by on a Saturday to walk through the homes and tour. We are all very excited for what is to come! Please stay tuned for more updates in the future.

Quynh T., Social MOS Manager

Special points of interest:

- Clients share their proposal stories
- MOS Has a new team member
- It's social work month
- 10 rare facts about WWII

WILL YOU MARRY ME?

This is a story of two proposals and one marriage.

First time he asked, it was spontaneous: "Let's go to Mexico and get married!" He was a romantic man and full of ideas. It was exciting to think we could get on a plane, fly to another country for a long weekend and return married. It was a wedding and a honeymoon rolled into one! Yes, it was a wonderful idea, but what we didn't know was that it was election time in Mexico and all government offices were closed for a period of time. So, without a license, we could not get married. There was a bit of irony here as we both worked for our

town's government--he as the mayor and I worked in the Clerk's Office. So, we returned from Mexico and put aside the idea of marriage for a bit. We were mature people, both having had previous marriages. But, he was not deterred. On Valentine's Day he



Submitted by Suzanne B., NorCal CM from her MSOS Client

proposed again. But this time, we had a plan. We would marry in March, on St Patty's day, in town, at the City building, on the steps of that big old red building, where we both worked. It would be a small wedding--8 people stood up with us-- but we invited the whole town to the reception afterward and that was about 200 people! The chef at the local hotel made us a beautiful, very large, 4-tiered cake, every person got a piece of it, as well as glass of bubbly. When it was over there was a Silver Shadow Rolls Royce to carry us away. It was all very lovely.

THE GIRL NEXT DOOR

Some men are lucky enough to marry the girl-next-door and Covina resident Len Measer is one of them. I had the privilege of speaking with Len about his first date with his wife, Helene.



In college, the two reconnected over a Christmas break, having grown-up together in the Bronx. They first met at grammar school, at 10-years-old. After that, they just always knew each other. Len would see Helene around the neighborhood, here and there, throughout the years. She and her mother would occasionally stop by the candy store owned by his family.

When Helene heard Len's brother was getting married, she called him and congratulated the family. Len asked Helene

about her New Year's Eve plans and invited her to a gathering at a friend's apartment building, in the club. It being NYE, they kissed. But she would remain just the girl next door a few years longer. The two met, again, through mutual friends at an outing at the beach. This time, something clicked. Len does remember Helene for her great legs! The couple married shortly after, he shares, and started a family. Who knew, the love of his life was there all along?!

Submitted by Emily M., USC MSW Intern from Len, MSOS Client

CAN'T SAY NO TO DESTINY

She sat next to him on a spontaneous evening and popped the question: Will you marry me? He was young, hard-working, cattle rancher devoted to his work. He never imagined this happening. Silence followed. And then, some more. In truth, he wasn't a firm believer of commitment through marriage. He hesitated.

She was a waitress at a restaurant bar in the quiet town of Loomis. He remembered her sympathetic smile on the day they'd met, as she poured his favorite, whiskey and water. He recalled eyeing her alluring form

multiple times and being immediately attracted to her. Being the soft-spoken gentleman he is, he rallied some confidence and struck up a conversation with her. Many dates followed and little did he realize she'd ask him to



Submitted by Bao H., Norcal CM from her MSOS Client

marry her so lightly, so casually. "You know, I don't want to be responsible for you," he responded. She wasn't hurt or offended. She knew he was the straightforward, honest man she had fallen for. Though he didn't say yes, he gave her validation that he was only hers and the conversation concluded. They eventually tied the knot in Reno because "she really wanted to." And to this day he'd say, "She made me marry her...and she was the most loving person in the entire world."

LOVE AT THE MASONIC LODGE

He, never married before, was still a bachelor at the ripe age of 71. She, married twice before, found herself single once again in her sixties. They had met months prior, at a local Masonic Lodge event, where the Masonic brothers and Eastern Star sisters comingled. Their interactions started off innocent enough, beginning with a little flirtation and flushed cheeks that could be seen from across the room. It then quickly

There was a hush in the room, and all eyes turned to her...

evolved into a first date, then a second date, then game on!!

The couple enjoyed time spent together, offering their services and good will to their Masonic community for months. They were learning how to communicate and cooperate as partners.

Their success grew rapidly and one night, at a monthly Masonic dinner, he stood up and declared his love to her publicly. He announced how he'd been a

willing bachelor for over seven decades, but now he hoped to change all that. He got down on one knee, looked up at her with loving eyes and asked, "Will you marry me?" There was a hush in the room, and all eyes turned to her, waiting in anticipation for her answer. Caught completely off guard, she had to steady herself to allow this question to settle in. After a deep breath and gaze into his eyes, she said, "YES! YES, I will marry you!!" And so it was.

Submitted by Kai H., Norcal CM from her MSOS Client

SOCIAL WORK MONTH

University of Southern California school year 2017-2018 will mark one decade of Masonic Homes at Covina partnering with the USC School of Social Work and fostering the next generation of geriatric social workers.

Each year, MOS' Master of Social Work Interns start by learning about senior communities, meeting with each Masonic Homes' department head and understanding their



Emily M., Camille S., & Alexa A.

contributions to the well-being of residents. Masonic Home residents are then assigned an in-

tern, meeting one-on-one throughout the year. These relationships will never be forgotten. Additionally, the interns assure the well-being of those

Masons, wives and widows by making home visits to Masonic Homes residents, who are outplaced at local memory care and skilled nursing facilities.

Come spring semester, our interns come back ready to deepen their understanding of clinical social work and dive into program development. The interns' work on campus culminates in their developing and implementing a 4-week educational group. While we are glad to see some fresh faces every fall and nurture young social workers, Masonic Homes' greatest contribution to their education is modeling an eldercare informed by the Masonic tenets of Relief and Brotherly Love. It is an ideal they will carry with them throughout their careers.

Camille S., Lodge Outreach and Educator

FIRST RESPONDERS

These days, many seniors know of the benefits of having a personal emergency response system (PERS) like Life Alert so they can quickly receive assistance from first responders, such as the fire department, even if they have fallen and cannot get to a phone. But what happens if the front door is locked? When first responders arrive to your home and no one can let them in, they are mandated to enter the home by any means necessary and therefore may have to damage the door to get inside, not to mention the locked door may delay their ability to respond to a medical emergency. That is, unless the first responders are able to access a key to your home. One solution is to install a realtor's lockbox at the door and provide the key code to your PERS service so they can in turn provide it to the first responders when they call 9-1-1. Similarly, companies like Knox-Box offer safes that open with a key that only the fire department has a copy of.

Do First Responders Have Access to your Home?

If you are interested in learning more about personal emergency response systems or residential lockboxes, you can call the Masonic Assistance line at (888) 466-3642 and we can discuss your situation with you in greater detail and provide necessary referrals.

Sol S., MSW, Masonic Assistance Manager

NEW TEAM MEMBER



I am the new Masonic Assistance Social Worker, and I'm thrilled to be a part of the MOS Team. I received my Masters in Counseling from Palo Alto University in 2016. My work history includes working as a Program Manager to support individuals with severe mental illness; hospice and bereavement support; transitional service coordinator for low income older adults, and as elementary school counselor. I truly enjoy working with people and I feel very lucky to be a part of such a dedicated and compassionate group!

Jodi M., MA Social Worker

MASONIC EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM

MERT Works! Like San Francisco's Masonic Board of Relief responded to the Great Quake, in 1906, California's lodges are carrying on a tradition of serving their Members, families and communities in the face of disaster. It was the Oroville Dam evacuation that inspired Table Mountain No. 124 to get involved in local emergency response, while, Central Coast lodges began developing their Masonic Emergency Response Team or MERT before disaster struck. As the Thomas Fire spread from Ventura County

toward Montecito, local lodges were ready for action. Ventura's Channel Islands No. 214 stepped -up, alerting the Masonic Assistance line that they were a First



Responder. MERT works! Like the CERT teams sponsored by

local police or fire departments, MERT teams complete training with Red Cross, FEMA and National CERT organizations. Lodge buildings are vetted as emergency shelters. MERT's first responsibility is to the families of their Lodge brethren, beginning with the immediate needs of elder or disabled Brethren and lodge Widows, residents of the Masonic Homes and MOS clients, those who are most vulnerable when disaster strikes. When it comes to disaster preparedness, too late can come too soon.

If your lodge is interested in creating a MERT, please contact MERT@SantaBarbaraFreemasons.org or see <http://masonicert.webstarts.com/>

Holly C., Lodge Outreach Manager

MUST LOVE DOGS



From cats to dogs, and even fish, a pet can easily become part of the family, and the love you feel for them grows. While

getting to know Mr. John Lissenberg, his love for pets was evident. He has pictures throughout his apartment of his past pets, and many dog-related knick-knacks. As a young boy, the attachment Mr. Lissenberg had with his first dog is unsurmountable. He says that this dog easily became not only his best friend, but brother, and has been an influence on his present relationships with animals. Mr. Lissenberg remembers his dog being a smart one, whom grew an attachment to him, and would even hop on the train and

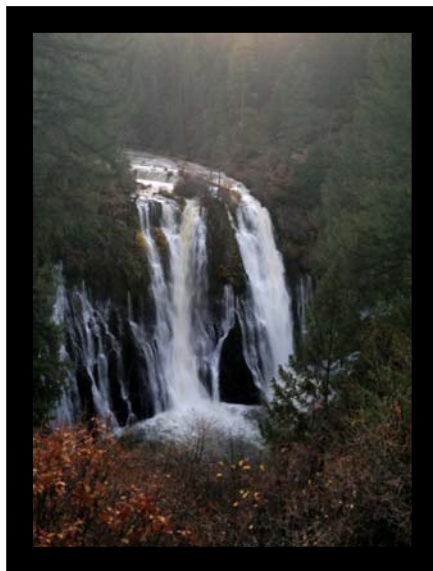
follow him to work! When Mr. Lissenberg was married to his wife, they had both a dog and cat. Although he claims to have loved them both, he was closer with his dog, because "That is a man's best friend". Years later, Mr. Lissenberg once again established a bond between himself and a dog named Nikki, the resident dog here at Masonic Homes in Covina. As Mr. John Lissenberg says, "Dogs are gifts sent from God" and the love for them is everlasting.

Alexa A., USC MSW Intern

TRAVEL TO BURNEY FALLS

When speaking to people about my job, the first thing I mention are the wonderful people I get to meet every day. The second and my not-so-secret favorite part of my job is the chance to visit amazing places I would normally not get to see. A recent favorite was a town called Burney, located in the greater Shasta area. Little did I know what was in store for me when I veered onto Hwy 299. The mountains I passed were glorious and felt like they were 10 feet away. I stopped twice to

take pictures, arriving 10 minutes late for my meeting.



The Client quickly forgave me as he appreciates the beauty that surrounds him and proceeded to tell me about Burney Falls. I was fascinated. He was determined to complete our meeting in time for me to make it to the Falls before the sun went down. I managed to make it just in time - the picture here was the result of my visit. It was taken in October and I was informed the Falls are even more amazing in the spring, once the snow has melted. You can bet I will be there this spring!

Liz T., MOS NorCal Manager

BOOST YOUR BRAIN AT MASONIC HOMES

“It has been projected that by 2050, about 16 million people will suffer from Alzheimer’s disease. This is why It’s very important to find ways to keep your brain and memory sharp for as long as possible” (Care Compare, 2014). Because Masonic Homes understands that keeping your brain healthy is just as important as keeping your body healthy a dedicated team of staff in Northern and Southern California designed Boost Your Brain classes.

Boost Your Brain classes are helping residents build up their cognitive muscles by keeping the brain active and healthy as well as helping them understand

information more clearly. All of the activities at the Masonic Homes use cognitive skills but the difference with brain boost



is that it gives those activities a purpose and a meaning by setting goals to develop cognitive and intellectual growth. Some of the 8-10 week classes include learning sign language, painting, and mindful meditation.

I recently had the privilege of

attending the graduation of our latest class in Covina. The class of January 2018 were presented with a certificate to represent the work that they have put into helping themselves and what they will be able to share with others to build a stronger community within the Masonic Homes. Graduates also received an IPAD. Research shows that IPADS help improve episodic memory and executive function. IPAD recipients are encouraged to attend a weekly IPAD class that will help them change the way they learn to improve memory and decision making.

Tara K., SoCal MOS
Office Manager

EVENTS AT THE UNION CITY CAMPUS

Feb 03 – Outing - Center for the Performing Arts in Mountain View

Hershey Felder – Tchaikovsky
a powerful musical tribute

Feb 09 – San Francisco Medicine Ball

They are known for unique pairings of multi- instrumentalists & vocalists

Feb 14 – Valentine Party

In celebration of Valentine’s Day

Feb 21 – Outing – Red Hawk Casino

located in the El Dorado County in a beautiful hilltop with magnificent views & natural settings

Feb 26 – Winter Concert Series

coming to the Home an assorted band playing different type of music

Mar 2018 – St. Patrick Party

In celebration of St. Patrick Day

Mar 2018 – Special Recognition for Birthdays 90+
Celebrating all residents that are 90 years old and older.

Apr 2018 – Easter Party

In celebration of Easter



MASONIC HOMES OF CALIFORNIA

1650 E. Old Badillo St.
Covina, CA 91724

1-888-466-3642



Brotherly Love, Relief, Truth

We're on the web:
Masonichome.org

Our Mission:

In keeping with the tenets of freemasonry, the Masonic Homes of California will promote the quality of life by empowering our members, their families and our communities to live well and achieve meaningful and rewarding lives.

RARE FACTS ABOUT WWII

1. Polish Catholic midwife Stanisława Leszczyńska delivered 3,000 babies at the Auschwitz concentration camp during the Holocaust in occupied Poland.
2. In World War II, British soldiers got a ration of three sheets of toilet paper a day. Americans got 22.
3. Only 20% of the males born in the Soviet Union in 1923 survived the war.
4. In World War II, the youngest serviceman in the US military was Calvin Graham — age 12. Graham lied about his age when he enlisted in the US Navy. His real age was not discovered after he was wounded.
5. Adolf Hitler's nephew, William Hitler, served in the US Navy during World War II.
6. Adolph Hitler and Henry Ford each kept a framed picture of the other on his desk.
7. During World War II, the largest Japanese spy ring was located in Mexico.
8. The first bomb dropped on Berlin by the Allies killed the only elephant in the Zoo.
9. Had it been necessary for a third atom bomb, the city targeted would have been Tokyo.
10. Hiroo Onoda, an Imperial Japanese Army intelligence officer who fought in World War II, never surrendered in 1945. Until 1974, for almost 30 years, he held his position in the Philippines. His former commander traveled from Japan to personally issue orders relieving him from duty in 1974.

Submitted by Helen D. Ramirez, MOS Data Analyst from:
<http://www.businessinsider.com>