

CALIFORNIA 

# FREEMASON

Apr/May 2010



## Passport to Masonry

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meaning to "Masonic journey"

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From Singapore to Sydney, seasoned traveler Sebastien Taveau of Peninsula Lodge No. 168 has accumulated countless stamps on his passport in recent years – and he's attended lodge in just about every destination. Read about his Masonic adventures abroad, some of his biggest surprises and fondest memories, and tips for other travelers.



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# Taking this show on the road

**KENNETH G. NAGEL,**  
Grand Master



**T**ravel is a theme I know all too well. For the past six months, Kathy and I have been on the go: up and down our jurisdiction, as well as from Alaska to Arizona, to our nation's capitol, and to Oregon. In one span of seven weeks, we visited Anchorage, Alaska; Tucson and Phoenix, Arizona; Washington, D.C.; and Medford, Eugene, and Portland, Oregon.

In the blink of an eye between trips, we regroup, do laundry, and start packing for another climate, another city. (This is infinitely simpler for me than Kathy.) We reflect on the conversations we just had and the people we've just met, and we wonder what the next group will be like.

It's exhausting. But it's also exhilarating. Because this kind of travel is all about people, and those who we find in our fraternity are the best kind of people.

This latest itinerary started taking shape two years ago. As senior grand warden attending the Wardens' Retreats, my pitch to incoming masters was always that they remember that they would be master of their entire lodge, not just those brothers who attend lodge every month. At some point, it hit me: I had to put my money where my mouth was.

And so, when I was installed as your grand master in October, I knew it was time to take this show on the road.

So, Kathy and I have planned special get-togethers with California Masons and their ladies who now live out of state. So far, we've been to Arizona and Oregon. In April and May, we'll fly to Nevada and the state of Washington.

In each city we visit, I present a "State of the Craft" in California to our out-of-state brothers. I remind them,

often, to their surprise, about the Masonic benefits they're still entitled to, as California Masons in good standing. I discuss the Masonic Homes, Masonic Outreach Services, and scholarship opportunities for their kids and/or grandchildren. I also speak about the latest programs ventured by our Grand Lodge. We all reminisce about favorite lodge memories, and they share what they've been up to while residing in their new home state.

And I've realized, over the course of these trips, that what we're all saying is this: You take Masonry with you wherever you go.

I think that's what makes this travel issue so special. One of the best things about Masonry is that, no matter where you travel, you can find a place where you belong. You can find a place where you're welcomed. You can find men who, although they may not share your language or your upbringing, share something deeper.

In my "Grand Master's Tour," I've met brothers with vastly different Masonic experiences. But almost universally, they tell me that their memories of Masonry – their degrees, the nights in lodge, the fellowship they found – are still vivid.

I encourage these brothers to reconnect with a lodge in their area. Whether they choose to affiliate or just visit a lodge for a meeting or event, the main idea is to get re-engaged. I ask them to stay in touch with their California lodges, and to pick up the phone if they ever need anything – or just to say hello.

I remind them, and you: No matter where you go, you're a brother. ✨



byCasonLane



Planning a trip? Work these sights into your itinerary.

Whether you're traveling in this country or another, for business or pleasure, there are plenty of opportunities to learn more about Masonry along the way. Below is a partial list of landmarks recommended by Masonic scholars. Some are official Masonic buildings, while others are related symbolically to Masonry. All are sure to make a great photo or educational experience.

#### UNITED STATES

##### WASHINGTON, D.C. AREA

**The George Washington Masonic Memorial, Alexandria, Va.** This 333-foot-tall monument, built in the 1920s, is a memorial both to the first president of the United States and the man who perhaps best exemplifies the virtues of a Freemason – George Washington. A portion of every California Freemason's initiation fee goes to support the George Washington Masonic Memorial. [Online: gwmemorial.org](http://gwmemorial.org)

**The House of the Temple, Washington, D.C.** This building, about six blocks from Dupont Circle, is the headquarters for the Southern Jurisdiction of the Scottish Rite. With an entrance guarded



*Continued on next page*





by two 17-ton sphinxes, the design was inspired by the Mausoleum of Halicarnassus in Turkey, one of the seven wonders of the ancient world. The House of the Temple includes a museum and Masonic library.

Online: [scottishrite.org/where/hq.html](http://scottishrite.org/where/hq.html)

## INDIANAPOLIS

**The Scottish Rite Cathedral.** This neo-Gothic cathedral, built in mathematical multiples of 33 and featuring a tower with a 54-bell carillon, is said to be the largest building in the U.S. devoted to Freemasonry. At its completion in 1929, the International Association of Architects named it “one of the seven most beautiful buildings in the world.” Online: [aasr-indy.org](http://aasr-indy.org)

## BOSTON AREA

**Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, Boston, Mass.** This grand lodge’s library has one of the most extensive collections of Masonic information in the Western Hemisphere, including lodge proceedings dating back to 1733. The building’s Corinthian Hall has a beautiful, ornate ceiling that was reportedly crafted by Italian artisans in the 1800s. Online: [massfreemasonry.org](http://massfreemasonry.org)

**National Heritage Museum, Lexington, Mass.** The historic location of this American history museum, founded and supported by the Northern Jurisdiction of the Scottish Rite, provides a unique educational context for the American Revolution and the birth of the country. With an extensive

Masonic collection, the museum strives to demystify the meaning, history, and symbols of Freemasonry.

Online: [monh.org](http://monh.org)

## PHILADELPHIA

**The Masonic Temple in Pennsylvania.** This grand lodge building is considered one of the most magnificent wonders of the Masonic world. Dedicated in 1873 and based on Norman architecture, the temple celebrates the history of Freemasonry. Online: [pagrandlodge.org](http://pagrandlodge.org)

## DETROIT

**Detroit Masonic Temple.** This 14-story, Gothic-style building, opened in 1926, was designed to accommodate Detroit’s blue lodges and appendant bodies. Today, the building is home to nine lodges, two Royal Arch chapters, a Council of Royal and Select Masons, Detroit Commandery No. 1 Knights Templar, and the national offices of the Sovereign York Rite College of North America. With some 12 million cubic feet, the building is the largest and most complex of its kind.

Online: [detroitmasonic.com](http://detroitmasonic.com)







If you're traveling to Paris, plan a day trip to Chartres Cathedral, just 50 miles away. You'll walk the same grounds as stonemasons from the Middle Ages, who once gathered in the cathedral's marketplace to find work.

## INTERNATIONAL

### ENGLAND

**St. Paul's Cathedral, London.** This famous cathedral's churchyard was a birthplace of Freemasonry. Sir Christopher Wren, the architect of the cathedral, was associated with one of the very first Masonic lodges, the Lodge of Antiquity No. 2, which met across the street at the Goose and Gridiron alehouse. That tavern, though no longer in existence, is where the United Grand Lodge of England – the world's first grand lodge – was formed in 1717.

Online: [stpauls.co.uk](http://stpauls.co.uk)

**Freemasons' Hall, London.** As the headquarters of the United Grand Lodge of England, this Art Deco building is also a memorial to more than 3,000 Masons who died in World War I, as well as a vast museum of items that Freemasons used to hold secret meetings while they were prisoners of war. In addition to the grand lodge room, revered as one of the most spectacular in the world, there are 21 lodge rooms, a library, and a museum. Online: [ugle.org.uk](http://ugle.org.uk)

**Fountains Abbey, near Ripon in North Yorkshire.** This World Heritage Site, founded in 1132, has no explicit ties to Freemasonry, but it does contain an important allegory. Behind the walls in a part of the monastery called the Chapter House, one can see the markings of an original stonemason who helped

construct the building hundreds of years ago. This mason was working with pride and taking ownership of what he built – even though his markings were never intended to be seen.

Online: [fountainsabbey.org.uk](http://fountainsabbey.org.uk)

### SCOTLAND

**Rosslyn Chapel, near Edinburgh in Roslin.** This chapel, brought to the pop-culture spotlight by Dan Brown's "The Da Vinci Code," was built by the St. Clair family and includes carvings and symbols that are significant to the rites of Freemasonry. The St. Clairs reportedly were the grand masters of Freemasonry in Scotland before the formation of the Grand Lodge of Scotland in 1736. Online: [rosslynchapel.com](http://rosslynchapel.com)

### FRANCE

**Grande Loge Nationale Francais, Paris.** This contemporary headquarters building for the Grand Lodge of France has an impressive grand temple, lodge rooms, and a museum. Many Paris lodges meet in this building. Online: [glnf.asso.fr](http://glnf.asso.fr)

**Chartres Cathedral, Chartres.** Located in its namesake town, about 50 miles from Paris, the Chartres Cathedral is filled with all kinds of symbolism, and the building itself harkens back to cathedral-building as a Masonic symbol. In the Middle Ages, the cathedral functioned as a central marketplace, where masons and others gathered to find work. ✨



by Heather Boerner

# A Common Bond, and Pond, Between Brothers

Three California Masons cross the Atlantic  
to join the ranks of an English lodge

**B**rother Peter Goetz thought he knew what Masonry was: fraternal support, tight-knit brotherhood, and adherence to longstanding traditions. But his first trip to visit Drury Lane Lodge No. 2127 in London changed all that.

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He recalls sitting at a table with brothers from Hamburg and members of the grand lodges of Montenegro, France, and England. The men were sitting together, smiling, laughing, and speaking the common language of Masonry.

"I looked around and I suddenly said to myself, 'This is international Masonry at its best,'" recalls the 64-year-old science teacher from Garden Grove, California. "This was a small lodge, and there were five countries represented there, all playing the same tune. It brought Masonry alive for me as an international fraternity. You always think that you can go anywhere and find a Mason, but I didn't feel it until I was sitting at that lodge."

Today, Goetz is not only a Master Mason at Garden Grove Lodge No. 351 but also a Master Mason at Drury Lane Lodge – a rare feat accomplished by two of his Garden Grove Lodge brothers as well. The three brothers' dual membership is a symbol of the hospitality between the two lodges, which have forged a unique bond.

"In our ritual we talk about, 'What might otherwise have remained at a perpetual distance,'" says Danny Witherspoon, former inspector for the 484th District in Southern California. "That friendship [that unites brothers] is what Masonry is about. Fellowship is the thing; camaraderie."



### Trading places

The relationship between Drury Lane Lodge and Garden Grove Lodge started several years ago, when Ron Rees, past master of Drury Lane Lodge, traveled from England to southern California with two of his brothers. While visiting, Rees sought out a California lodge meeting. He met Witherspoon, then-master of Garden Grove Lodge, who brought him to an American third degree ceremony. The brothers struck up a friendship, and soon they were visiting each other at least once a year.

Fascinated by the differences between their Masonic traditions, the men agreed that American Masons would benefit from seeing a British third degree ceremony. In 2008 five brothers from Drury Lane Lodge traveled once again to southern California, this time to demonstrate their English degree ceremony at Garden Grove Lodge. Brother Michael MacIver was the lucky exemplar.

### Study abroad

Soon after, MacIver, his brother, Alex, and Goetz petitioned – by mail – for membership in Drury Lane Lodge. It took a year to get full approvals. In October 2009 the men traveled to England and were raised as Master Masons of the British lodge.

Now Goetz and the MacIvers are subject to the requirements

of both the Grand Lodge of California and the United Grand Lodge of England. Goetz and Michael MacIver have been back three times; Alex MacIver has returned twice.

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**“The average person who travels, especially who travels for Masonry, is pretty open to new experiences.”**

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In the process the men have learned the unique characteristics of British Masonry. For one, British Masons celebrate Festive Board, a traditional feast that includes a series of ceremonial toasts – to the queen, members of the line, and visitors. At their most recent visit in February, Goetz was honored that the Festive Board included a special toast for the president of the United States, a special tribute for him and Michael MacIver, the American brothers in attendance.

And while Drury Lane Lodge, located inside the Theatre Royal building in London’s West End, has a smaller membership than most lodges in southern California, it has more active participation. It’s something Goetz says he’d like to bring home.

“They have a lodge of 35 or 40 people, but a quarter of the

lodge is in the line. It’s great participation,” he says. “In a California lodge, we may have 10 men in the line but 250 members.”

### International relations

But the differences are small compared to the familiarity and camaraderie of meeting with other Masons, says Goetz. They’ve formed a tight bond, staying in touch by phone or e-mail, just like any other brother. The British and American brothers share inside jokes about “colonists” and Brits. A British brother recently chided Goetz “Where’d you put my tea?” Goetz recalls, laughing, “I told him to go to Massachusetts and look in the bay – he could probably still see some of it floating there.”

Michael MacIver, meanwhile, took time in his most recent visit to Drury Lane Lodge to visit Royston Cave in Hertfordshire, England, a man-made cave from the 14th century peppered with Knights Templar symbols.

“The average person who travels, especially who travels for Masonry, is pretty open to new experiences,” says MacIver, who’s been invited to stay in the homes of some of his British brothers when he returns.

“It’s a funny thing about being a Mason: Once you have a connection, you stay connected.”



Two roads diverged in  
a yellow wood,  
And sorry I could not  
travel both  
And be one traveler,  
long I stood  
And looked down one  
as far as I could  
To where it bent in the  
undergrowth;

.....

I shall be telling this  
with a sigh  
Somewhere ages  
and ages hence:  
Two roads diverged in  
a wood, and I –  
I took the one less  
traveled by,  
And that has made  
all the difference.

- Robert Frost, "The Road Not Taken"



by John L. Cooper III, Past Grand Secretary

# CHO

## Freemasonry is all about choices

A man has to make a deliberate choice to ask to become a Freemason in the first place, for no Mason will ask him to join.

He has to have made the right choices early in life – we call it being “under the tongue of good report” – before we can accept him into the fraternity. He then learns that Freemasonry will help him continue to make good choices by offering him an opportunity to shape his life according to its principal tenets and cardinal virtues. But the choice will still be his.

He learns that the journey will not always be an easy one. He will still all too often have to travel a “rough and rugged road.”

At times he may wonder why he made Freemasonry his choice in life. In a world that often seems to reward those who “cheat, wrong, or defraud” others, he has promised never to do that. In a world that seems to care little for those at the bottom of the heap – those who find themselves on “the lowest spoke of fortune’s wheel” – he always steps forward to help. When the path that others take leads them to the brink of disaster, he is



# ICES

there to point the way back home for them – an often thankless task.

And yet, for all of that, he chose to become a Mason, and chooses to remain a Mason. Why?

He may never really know why he became a Mason. There was something that attracted him to a “band of brothers” who had chosen the same road, and who would travel with him to “that undiscovered country from whose bourn no traveler returns.”

But he knows why he remains a Mason. It is a secret that is really no secret at all: He made a choice to take the road less traveled by, and “that

has made all the difference.”

Freemasonry is exclusive, not because those who belong to it are better than others, but because those who are Masons make better choices. And it all began at the beginning of the journey – at the beginning of his Masonic journey.

He chose to travel in the company of men who share his values, and who will be there to help him if he should stumble along the way. And he chose to “help, aid, and assist” those of his brethren along the way who need his strong hand in times of need. He chose to live a life in which the only reward is the knowledge of a

job well done, and the smile of those he reached out to help.

He chose to make a difference in the lives of others rather than living a self-centered life of ease.

He chose the “road not taken” by others, the “one less traveled by,” because for him, “that has made all the difference.” ✦



# Passport to Masonry

by Cason Lane

One globe-trotter gives new meaning to "Masonic journey"

**O**n a recent trip to China, Brother Sebastien Taveau was almost refused entry because his passport didn't have room for the stamp. The document is only about five years old, but in that time, he's collected stamps from Australia, Finland, Singapore, Japan, Germany, Canada, and a number of other countries – and he's attended lodge in just about all of them.

As a security expert for San Jose-based PayPal Inc., Taveau is constantly on the go, speaking at conferences and training employees throughout the world. Amid a hectic travel itinerary, he makes time to visit Masonic lodges.

"When you travel for business, you go from meeting to meeting to meeting, and sometimes you change cities or countries in the same day," says Taveau, past master of Peninsula Lodge No. 168 in San Carlos. "It's calming to go into a lodge. It gives you a nice, relaxing

break from the traveling schedule. It allows you to re-center yourself during the trip."

Moreover, he sees visits to foreign lodges – be they in other states or countries – as part of his development as a Mason. His Masonic travel experiences have been a great way to learn about people in different communities, how they live, and what's important to them. Wherever he goes, he learns more about Freemasonry and meets some new brothers along the way – giving new meaning to the term "Masonic journey."

## Have degree, will travel

He's part of a lodge that shares his passion for travel. Peninsula Lodge has devoted a special section of its Web site, dubbed the "Travelers Corner," to Masonic travel in other states and countries.

*Continued on page 14*



Do you have a favorite Masonic travel story to share? Visit the official Facebook page for the Masons of California and click on the Discussions tab.

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There, brothers document their experiences with photos and articles from the various lodges and landmarks they've seen, offering hints and advice for fellow Masonic travelers.

"Sebastien is the most prolific," says Past Master John Follett, Web master, who developed the travel section a few years ago after stumbling upon an old Masonic lodge

during a trip through Savannah, Ga. "Not only does he travel all over the world, but when he goes places, he actually tries to go to lodge there. It's interesting to hear the way some lodges run things and see pictures of the different lodge rooms."

Taveau's diligent note-taking is more than just a good read; it's a firsthand account of what it means to be a Mason without borders. Here are some highlights from his travels:

## Australia: Fighting fire with fraternity

Taveau has visited many lodges in Sydney, Australia, but his favorite is the Lodge Fire Brigades, which is made up of local firefighters. The brothers include firemen of all ranks, but once they enter the lodge room, those ranks are no longer important. He admires their fraternal spirit — in and out of the lodge room.

"They wear uniforms in the lodge; they just put an apron on top of it," Taveau says. "And sometimes the master of the lodge is not the highest ranked person in the room, but the highest ranked person in the room is still going to obey the master of the lodge. It's very impressive, because you see that these guys care for each other outside of the lodge, and they care for each other inside of the lodge even stronger than is imaginable."

## Finland: No translation necessary

In addition to his native French, Taveau speaks English, Spanish, and Italian; he can understand German; and he knows a little Russian. But he doesn't know any Finnish. So when he attended a first degree ritual at a lodge in Oulu, Finland, the brethren arranged for a past master to sit next to him and explain the proceedings in English.

But as the ritual unfolded, Taveau found himself following it all — no translation necessary. He later learned that the Finnish

ritual, very similar to the one used in California, was actually borrowed from the Grand Lodge of New York.

## France: Tour de Tours

Since becoming a Mason in 2003, Taveau has also learned some new things about his hometown of Tours, France, where he has met local brothers. For example, he learned that in World War II, the vineyards and caves of Tours served as a safe haven for many Freemasons, who were persecuted by the Germans. Some Freemasons would meet secretly in the caves, where they fashioned lodge rooms behind huge wine barrels. You can still see these "rooms" today, Taveau says.

## Singapore: "The shortest examination I ever had"

In 2007, when Taveau was master of Peninsula No. 168, he arranged to attend a lodge meeting at the Freemason Hall in Singapore — and learned how small the world really is. As he was preparing for his examination, one of the would-be examiners ended up vouching for Taveau immediately. It turns out that the brother had served in the U.S. Navy with Peninsula Lodge's then-senior warden, Brother Steve Greene. The examiner had heard all about the lodge, and even received the Trestleboard.

"Usually, you have three people doing the examination," Taveau laughs. "That was the shortest examination I ever had."

A few months later, when the brother from Singapore was visiting the San Francisco area, Taveau hosted him as a visitor at Peninsula Lodge. Today they remain good friends.





## Welcome, in every language

When it comes to welcoming visitors to Peninsula Lodge, Taveau has great perspective as a result of his travels. He knows exactly what's going through the mind of a visiting brother.

"You always wonder what's going to be the extent of the fraternal welcome," he says. "Are they going to be suspicious because you are from overseas? Are they going to be warm? Or are they not going to care because they're busy with other things? You always have that in the back of your mind when you go to a lodge for the first time."

Usually, he explains, a visiting brother first encounters the tiler, or another brother who is protecting the lodge. That brother arranges for the examination, oral questioning typically conducted in the preparation room outside of the lodge room.

In Taveau's experience, it gets easier from there.

"As you start meeting more brothers, it gets much more relaxed, and people are very warm and welcoming," he says.

## Masonic mementos

When he visited a lodge in England, Taveau recalls, the only tie he had was a colored one – which is a problem for local lodge meetings. But the brothers were very accommodating.

## MASONIC TRAVELOGUE

The "Travelers Corner" at [peninsulamasoniclodge.org](http://peninsulamasoniclodge.org) displays photos and articles from traveling brethren. In addition to entertaining and educating the lodge members, the travel section has piqued the curiosity of the general public and even helped attract some new lodge members.

Since its launch about seven years ago, more than two dozen prospecting inquiries have come in as a direct result of the Website – and about 10 who went on to petition the lodge.

"You can wear only two types of ties into a British lodge – a black tie or the officially designated tie from the United Grand Lodge of England," Taveau says. "So one of the brothers had a couple of ties in his bag, and he let me wear one of his."

After the meeting, they all went out to a local pub, and one brother even gave Taveau an official Grand Lodge tie as a souvenir.

The tie is one of many souvenirs that Taveau has collected along the way, including various tokens and medallions that are now on display at his lodge. But the best souvenirs can't fit in a display case: they're the memories and friendships that accompany the stamps on his passport.



## Your Travel Tip

Traveling to another lodge? Here's what you need to know.

Whether you're visiting a lodge in Frankfurt or Florida, the process is basically the same, which ensures that only bona fide Freemasons are admitted into lodge. Sebastien Taveau, seasoned traveler from Peninsula Lodge No. 168, contributes some helpful tips.

**1. Notify Grand Lodge.** Well in advance of your trip, call Member Services at the Grand Lodge of California and advise them of when and where you intend to travel. The Grand Lodge will then send an official letter of introduction, complete with the Grand Lodge seal, to the grand lodge of the state or country you plan to visit. Grand Lodge will also send this letter to you, along with a Grand Lodge certificate that proves you are a Mason in good standing.

**2. Assemble your credentials.** You will need a copy of the Grand Lodge letter; the Grand Lodge certificate; and a dues card that shows you're in good financial standing. Taveau suggests a few other things to take: a dark suit and tie, white gloves, and an apron.

**3. Visit the lodge at your destination.** Go directly to the local lodge. In some cases, Taveau notes, a foreign grand lodge, upon receiving the letter from the Grand Lodge of California, has contacted him before his trip and arranged for him to coordinate his visit directly with a lodge.

**4. Be prepared to take the examination.** Plan to get to the lodge at least a half-hour before the stated meeting, allowing sufficient time to present your credentials and take the "strict trial and due examination." This oral exam, which authenticates that you are a Freemason, is usually conducted by three brothers. (If you have attended this lodge before or if you know some of the members, someone may vouch for you immediately, in which case the examination may be waived.)

**5. Follow the ritual as you know it.** In the lodge meeting, do not try to copy what the other brothers are doing. "Try to go there with an open mind and always follow what you have learned in your lodge," Taveau advises. "In other countries, they may have degree signs that are different, and they may have a ritual that is completely different from what you know, but the rule is to always do what you have been taught. No brother will be offended if you are slightly off." In fact, he adds, the brothers may invite you to dinner after the meeting, which is a good opportunity to discuss the differences that you noticed.

by Laura Normand

# Free To Roam

Travel is at the core of the Masonic experience – even the term “freemason” itself

Some 152 years ago Brother Peter Lassen led 12 wagons from Missouri to California, forging the treacherous – and now infamous – Lassen Trail. After months of hardship, he successfully delivered new settlers to Benton City, the state’s northernmost community.

Among them was Reverend Saschel Woods, who carried one of the first Masonic charters into California.

The Missouri charter was part of a new chapter in Freemasonry. But the long journey, inspired by the promise of California, tied Lassen and Woods to the fraternity in another symbolic way: it echoed the travel experience of the first Freemasons.

For first Freemasons, life on the go

According to Masonic lore the original Freemasons were master stonemasons in the Middle Ages, who roamed the European countryside for work that demanded their skilled labor – cathedrals, castles, abbeys, and other massive buildings.



Lured by the promise of a better life, Peter Lassen, left, and Reverend Saschel Woods journeyed from Missouri to California, carrying a Masonic charter. Their experience wasn't unlike the original Freemasons of the Middle Ages, who traveled great distances for the promise of work.

Common laborers in the 17th century were tied to the land by feudal law. But skilled stonemasons had earned a special privilege: they were free to travel anywhere. Unlike common stonemasons, master masons became known as “free”-masons.

Their work, by nature, sent them into distant lands and under the scrutiny of strangers. Centuries before professional references and certificates of credentials, these first freemasons devised ways to prove quickly and definitively that they possessed the skills of a master stonemason: they created secret modes of recognition, known only by fellow master masons.

Those modes of recognition evolved as the fraternity opened its doors to speculative Masons, giving rise to the ritual Masons practice today. But one thing didn't change with the passing of centuries: modes of recognition prove that a man is part of a brotherhood with common knowledge and experiences. They still prove that a man can be trusted, even as a newcomer in a strange land.

### On the road again

As world exploration extended the boundaries of Masonry, 19th- and 20th-century Freemasons relived the travel experience of their forefathers.

Just as the first freemasons had journeyed to foreign lands to build the next cathedral, abbey, or castle, pioneers like Lassen and Woods found themselves surveying new horizons and envisioning what they would create. They looked for fellow Masons – men of the same character and common experiences – to create it with.

Together these pioneering Masons formed lodges and laid the foundation of their new communities.

See “The Spread of Freemasonry” sidebar for a summary of how the fraternity expanded around the globe.

### “I see you’ve traveled some”

Today the lives of Freemasons are no longer defined by travel. But the fraternity's long history of travel lives on in its degree ritual, its modes of recognition, and a member's allegorical Masonic journey.

Four centuries after traveling stonemasons formed a fraternity, Masons still recognize a brother with the phrase “I see you’ve traveled some.” That mode of recognition acknowledges the fraternity's origins and a fellow Mason's shared journey.

It's also a bond between brothers past and present – from cathedral-builders to 21st-century Masons. ✨

## The Spread of Freemasonry

Freemasonry was officially established on June 24, 1717, when four lodges in London formed the Grand Lodge of England. From that first grand lodge, Freemasonry spread across the globe, but exactly how and when it spread from one country to the next are often subjects of debate. It started in places where the British Empire had interests – such as Europe, the West Indies, the Americas, and India – and later extended to other parts of the world.

The following timeline is not comprehensive, but it includes a few key dates that show the spread of the world's oldest fraternity.

1599-1600s: Masonic lodges appear in the United Kingdom

1717: First grand lodge – the Grand Lodge of England – is formed in London

1720s: Freemasonry is exported to India, Spain, France, and the British Colonies in North America

1725: Formation of the Grand Lodge of Ireland

1730s: Freemasonry is introduced in Italy, Germany, and Sweden

1736: Formation of the Grand Lodge of Scotland

1740s: Freemasonry is introduced in Denmark

1751: Formation of the Ancient Grand Lodge of England, rivaling the Grand Lodge of England

1767: First lodge is established in China

1780s: Formation of grand lodges in U.S. states

1813: Formation of the United Grand Lodge of England (combining the Grand Lodge of England and the Ancient Grand Lodge of England)

1820s: Freemasonry is introduced in Australia

1842: First lodge is formed in New Zealand

1866: First lodge is formed in Japan

1888: Formation of the United Grand Lodge of New South Wales (Australia)

1953: Formation of the Grand Lodge of the State of Israel

1957: Formation of the Grand Lodge of Japan

1961: Formation of the Grand Lodge of India



# New to You



Take your California Freemason experience beyond the printed page

## Do more with digital

In a mobile world, we know that readers want on-the-go access to favorite magazines, even when they don't have time to stop at home and pick up the mail. So we're proud to announce that California Freemason magazine is now available in a digital format.

You'll still receive the same high-quality print magazine in the mail, but now you have the option to read California Freemason electronically.

Each digital issue is an exact copy of the print edition, with added features that enable reader interaction and easy access to more information.

The digital issues are online at [freemason.org](http://freemason.org): just select California Freemason Online from the News & Events drop-down menu. Beginning with Dec/Jan 2010, all issues will be posted in the new digital format.

## More features, no waiting


Here are just a few of the benefits:

- **Search:** Wondering if your lodge is mentioned in this month's issue? Do a quick keyword search. You can also search across all digital issues.

- **Share:** Like a story and think your lodge brothers will, too? Share it on e-mail, Facebook, Twitter, and more.

- **Surf:** Click on a Web link and you'll immediately be directed to the site. For example, check out this issue's "Around the World" article on pages 5-7. More information about the 13 Masonic sights is just a click away.

- **Save:** Download the magazine for offline viewing later.

- **Specialize:** You decide how you want to view the magazine – whether you like the Zoom level at 70 percent or 270 percent, or you prefer your table of contents to appear as thumbnail images of each page. 

## Join the discussion

The theme of Masonic travel is too broad to fit in one issue, so we're continuing the discussion on Facebook.

To share your favorite Masonic travel tale, visit the official Facebook page for the Masons of California and click on the Discussions tab.

While you're there, read about Annual Communication in Bombay, a first degree ceremony in Tel-Aviv, and how one California Mason became an impromptu host for New Zealand grand lodge officers – on the high seas.

# ROAM

by Cason Lane

## *Sweet Home*

**Masonic Homes residents celebrate their passion for travel**

When it comes to living life to the fullest, many people consider travel an essential ingredient. And that's certainly true at the Masonic Homes, where many residents are passionate about seeing different parts of the world – whether on the other side of the globe or in their own backyard.

*Continued on next page*



## On the road

Roger and Loretta Gurley spent many of their younger years on the road. Since moving to the Masonic Home at Union City, they haven't slowed down a bit.

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**"We met a lot of Masons, and we met a lot of people who were connected to Masonry," Long says. "It was very interesting."**

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"I spent 30 years in the aerospace industry, and all I did was travel," Roger Gurley says. "And I'm not tired of it at all. We have a lot of fun seeing different things, and my wife is an outstanding photographer."

After trips to such places as Alaska, Mississippi, Canada, and Fort Bragg, N.C., the Gurleys have spent the past few months traveling in California. Many times, they'll take spur-of-the-moment jaunts whenever the mood hits them.

"We'll be in the car driving somewhere, and we'll say, hey, let's go to Muir Woods," he says. "We've now seen everything from the southern part of San Diego all the way up to Eureka. We've just recently taken a zeppelin ride over the San Francisco Bay and enjoyed that tremendously."

## International adventures

Other residents of the Masonic Homes set their sights on far-away destinations. Covina resident Pat Long, for example, recently returned from a three-week cruise along the Panama Canal.

"I'm legally blind, and I wanted to see the canal while I still have enough sight to be able to see it," Long says. "We went through Nicaragua and Costa Rica, down one side and back up the other."

Long and her travel companion made some special connections on the cruise.

"We met a lot of Masons, and we met a lot of people who were connected to Masonry," Long says. "It was very interesting."

## From the Valley to the Alps

Thelma Roberts, another resident of the Masonic Home at Covina, spent two weeks in August visiting Switzerland with a childhood friend.

"We saw the Matterhorn and the beautiful countryside of Switzerland and the geraniums in the windows," she recalls. "It was quite an experience."

Roberts and her friend also took a side trip to Italy, where they enjoyed shopping and dining on the little streets of Bellagio and seeing the home of actor George Clooney.

She notes that even though her vacation was exhilarating, it was also physically challenging. She laughs as she shares this entry from her journal:

"We were up before 7 a.m., out of the room ... onto the train, off the train, onto the bus, off the bus ... into the restaurant, out of the restaurant, onto the water taxi, off the water taxi, into the palace, out of the palace.... And that's what most of our days were like!"

It was worth it. "I'm a valley girl born in West L.A.," says Roberts, 81. "About the farthest I'd been was Hawaii and Alaska. This was really out of the ordinary for me."

## Travel traditions

At the same time Roberts was exploring Switzerland, another Masonic Homes resident was exploring France. Marie Norton, a Union City resident of French descent, spent the entire month of August traveling with her son to Paris and through Provence

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**"I'm a native Californian, and I've recently seen more places here in this region than I've ever seen in my life," Norton says. "We've done wonderful trips. I really appreciate that."**

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and Brittany, learning about the country's history and visiting medieval villages and castles.

Norton's adventure in August was in fact her fifth trip to France – part of a lifetime of travel.



One of her favorite travel memories is from the 1950s, when she spent nine years in Japan because her husband was stationed there with the U.S. government. When she saw some of the other American women struggling to make their way in a new country, Norton helped them by coordinating group trips to local sights.

"I love to travel and saw a lot of interesting things in Japan, so I thought if people took an interest in the country and got to know it, they would be happier," recalls Norton, 93. "So I arranged trips to factories and teahouses and shows. I thoroughly enjoyed that."

### Home again, Home again

Now, after years of globetrotting, Norton is settling down and taking only local trips. But thanks to the

bus tours and community outings offered by the Masonic Home at Union City, she's able to continue her travel lifestyle. In recent months, she has joined other residents for trips to nearby destinations like Half Moon Bay, Muir Woods, Big Basin, wineries in Livermore, and the Santa Cruz Follies.

Community travel is also popular among active residents at the Masonic Home at Covina. The group goes twice a year to Laughlin for a two-night stay, and they do at least one big trip each year – to such places as San Francisco or the Grand Canyon.

"I'm a native Californian, and I've recently seen more places here in this region than I've ever seen in my life," Norton says. "We've done wonderful trips. I really appreciate that." ✧

From their "Home base" in either Covina or Union City, residents venture to Switzerland, Paris, Panama, and more.



# Connecting With Masonic Assistance

## MASONIC SENIOR OUTREACH

Masonic Senior Outreach, a program of the Masonic Homes of California, provides the senior members of our fraternal family access to the services and resources they need to stay healthy and safe in their homes or in retirement facilities in their home communities.

These services include:

- Information and referrals to community-based senior providers throughout California
- Ongoing care management at no cost
- Financial support

Masonic Senior Outreach also provides interim financial and care support to those who are on the waiting list for the Masonic Homes of California. Contact us at **888/466-3642** or **masonicassistance@mhcuc.org**.

## MASONIC FAMILY OUTREACH

Masonic Family Outreach support services are available to California Masons and their families who need help dealing with today's complex issues, such as the impact of divorce, the stresses of a special needs child, job loss, and other significant life challenges.

Our case management services are broad, flexible, and able to serve families in their own communities throughout the state. If you are in need of support or know of a family in distress, contact us at **888/466-3642** or **masonicassistance@mhcuc.org**.

## ACACIA CREEK

To learn more about Acacia Creek, our new senior living community in Union City, visit [acaciacreek.org](http://acaciacreek.org) or contact **877/902-7555** or **dwiley@acaciacreek.org**.

## STAY INFORMED

You may request a presentation be made at a lodge meeting about the Masonic Homes and Outreach programs. You may also arrange a private or group tour of the Home nearest you to get a firsthand look at residential services on our two campuses.

To request a speaker or tour, contact Masonic Assistance at **888/466-3642** or **masonicassistance@mhcuc.org**.

## Masonic Assistance

*Fraternal care based on Masonic values*

We support and serve the whole family

- ▶ **Masonic Homes of California**
- ▶ **Masonic Senior Outreach**
- ▶ **Masonic Family Outreach**

CALL

**888/466-3642**

for information and support



A young boy with short brown hair, wearing a red long-sleeved sweater, is seen from behind, writing on a dark chalkboard with white chalk. The text he is writing is in all caps and reads: FREEMASONRY, the foundation of our country; BLUE LODGE, the foundation of our craft; PUBLIC SCHOOLS, the foundation of our democracy.

FREEMASONRY, the foundation of our country  
BLUE LODGE, the foundation of our craft  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS, the foundation of our democracy

## April is Public Schools Month

In 1920 Grand Master Charles Albert Adams issued the first proclamation for Public Schools Week. It became a statewide tradition, and today, schools and Masons throughout the state celebrate Public Schools Month every April.

This April, make a special effort to support local schools.

In Santa Clara Valley, 12 lodges and the San Jose Scottish Rite Foundation raised \$25,000 for San Jose Unified School District. Their gift provides the Take Home Book Program to 34 kindergarten classrooms at eight deserving schools, increasing literacy skills in the district's youngest students.

Their investment is a reminder to all of us: Together we can make a lasting difference for California public schools.



Masons of California



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Register by May 22. Download the form from [freemason.org](http://freemason.org) by selecting Masonic Education from the Member Center drop-down menu. Contact Program Coordinator Kim Hegg at **415/292-9111** with any questions.