

# CALIFORNIA FREEMASON

JUMP JUMP JUMP JUMP JUMP JUMP JUMP JUMP  
ON THE BANDWIDTH ON THE BANDWIDTH ON THE BANDWIDTH

HOW A NEW  
TECHNOLOGY  
CAN SAVE  
YOUR LIFE



THE RADIO SPECTRUM IS A FINITE RESOURCE, LIKE WATER OR LUMBER OR NATURAL GAS. WHEN MANY OF US TRY TO MERGE ONTO THE SAME KIND OF BANDWIDTH AT ONCE - THE WI-FI NETWORK IN A CROWDED COFFEE SHOP, FOR EXAMPLE - WE FIND OURSELVES IN A TRAFFIC JAM.

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TECHNOLOGY THAT  
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by devotees:  
THE THOMAS EDISONS OF THE WORLD, WHO TRY

999 TIMES

so that on the thousandth,  
we have the light bulb.

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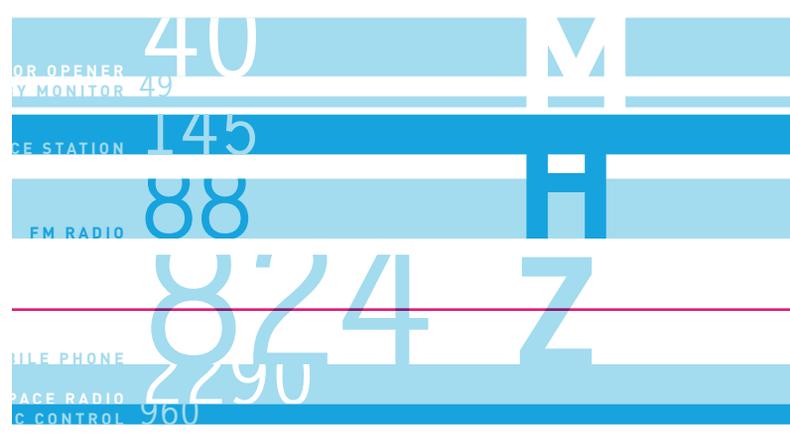
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CALIFORNIA  
FREEMASON

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### *Jump on the Bandwidth*

Every time we dial 911, we rely on a natural resource we may not even know is finite. Every time our cellphone loses its signal in a crowd – or a catastrophe – we’ve run out. One Mason wants to make sure this never happens to emergency responders. And to do it, he’ll change current bandwidth technology.



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# EXECUTIVE MESSAGE

Russ Charvonia, Senior Grand Warden



## Putting *High-Tech* to Work

**E**xabyte. I was just getting comfortable with the concept of a gigabyte, and now I need to try to wrap my arms around the idea of *exabytes*. Apparently a single exabyte equals one *quintillion* bytes. And all these years, I thought my children were making up the word quintillion!

It has been said that we are now creating as much information (many exabytes' worth) in a two-day period as was generated in total by humankind over the last 30,000 years, beginning with the first drawings on cave walls until 2003.

And not only is this information being created in tremendous volumes and at supersonic speeds, it is being shared by and between us at an ever-increasing pace.

I had the distinct honor and privilege in 1996 of serving as master of what was then San Buenaventura Lodge No. 214 (now Channel Islands) as we celebrated our 125th anniversary. At the time, I commented on the fact that "communications which used to take weeks to be delivered from the north of the state to the south are now measured in nanoseconds." As remarkable as the technological "advances" were 17 years ago, technology today is even more incredible and mind-boggling.

No longer is technology only in the hands of computer scientists or our children. Every generation uses and benefits from modern technology.

We are making great use of technology in California Masonry through iMember; Intaact, our newly implemented lodge accounting and reporting solution; the lodge-finder app; Facebook; Twitter; YouTube; and so many other ways.

Is the pervasiveness and pace at which we are making technological advances "good" or "bad"? Well, just as the gavel, when placed in the hands of the master of a lodge may be used as an instrument for great good or even greater evil, technology may be considered similarly.

Masonry has always created friends among men who might otherwise have been kept at a perpetual distance. Yet with the ability to communicate instantly with almost anyone on the planet, Masonic bonds are now created across borders and languages with great ease.

However, with this instantaneous and often impersonal nature of technology comes the need to govern ourselves with temperance and civility. In the haste to react and respond to something that strikes a chord within us, our message can be misinterpreted and cause great hurt.

But, despite the ease and ability to connect with each other "virtually," there is a special need that is fulfilled when brethren gather, in person and on the level. I challenge each of you to put high-tech to work for you and for our beloved craft; to use it as a tool for creating the "high touch" experience we all seek in Freemasonry.

And if all those exabytes (or zettabytes) of information are causing you undue stress and giving you a headache, perhaps going to lodge this week and reconnecting with your brethren will be the tonic to cure you. Just remember to leave your smartphone and tablet at home. ✧

# THE 18TH CENTURY INTERNET

## THE FIRST FLURRIES OF INFORMATION EXCHANGE TOOK A TANGIBLE FORMAT

*by John L. Cooper III, Deputy Grand Master*

Most historians credit the creation of the Internet to the 1960s when government joined with commercial interests to create the first “robust, fault-tolerant, and distributed computer networks” (according to the “Internet” entry in Wikipedia). The main feature of the Internet is its ability to exchange information, and this exchange has created a new ability to share information with an almost limitless audience around the world. While the technology behind the Internet is important, it is what is done with that technology that is far more significant. The Internet has created the ability to instantly share information and receive feedback almost as quickly. The resultant dialogue between those who use the Internet has revolutionized the access to information, and how information is used. But it may come as a surprise that Freemasonry benefited from what might be termed the “18th Century Internet” long before Freemasons took to cyberspace to talk about the mysteries of Masonry.

The “18th Century Internet” was not electronic, and it used a technology which was centuries old by the time organized Grand Lodge Freemasonry emerged in London in 1717. The printing of books was invented in China, but the invention of moveable type by Johannes Gutenberg around 1439 made printing practical for mass publication of books. At first book-length publications were the norm, but soon “small books” turned up – booklets concerned with promoting ideas, and which led to the publication of other booklets contradicting those previously published, and leading to the combat of ideas in print. Eventually these smaller publications led to the printing of “pamphlets” – booklets of a temporary nature dealing with current topics that could be sold almost immediately after they

were printed. These “pamphlet wars” were a characteristic of the years leading up to the Civil War in England (1642-1651), and for the next century and a half, the “battle of pamphlets” was common on the political and religious front. It should therefore come as no surprise that when Freemasonry emerged into modern times, it, too, would become the subject and object of “pamphlet wars.”

Although the printing of pamphlets and their distribution and sale is not as quick as exchanging information on the Internet today, it was much quicker than had ever been the case in earlier times when books were the primary means of disseminating new information. As Freemasonry became better known to the public in the 1720s, a series of pamphlets was published purporting to reveal the secrets of this mysterious society. In the beginning the fraternity ignored the pamphlets, believing that the less said the better. But soon Freemasons were responding to attacks on the fraternity by publishing their own pamphlets. The Masonic scholars, Douglas Knoop, G.P. Jones, and Douglas Hamer collected and reprinted some of the most important pamphlets from the 1720s in their book, “Early Masonic Pamphlets.” Students today can, therefore, read publications from the “pamphlet wars” of the early 18th century.

Today lots of information about Freemasonry is posted on the Internet – some of it accurate, and some of it very inaccurate. The same thing can be said

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*Continued next page*

# MASONIC EDUCATION

of the Masonic pamphlets printed in the 1720s in London. Since many of them were published to attack Freemasonry by exposing its ritual, there is no way to know if the rituals so exposed accurately represented Freemasonry of those days. But in 1723 a group of Masons set out to beat the pamphleteers at their own game. The story was told by S. Brent Morris, one of America's foremost Masonic scholars of today, and here is a short version of this fascinating episode in the Masonic "pamphlet wars" of the 1720s.

For many years Masonic students have known of a pamphlet printed in 1723 called "A Mason's Examination," and distributed through the Flying Post – a pamphleteering printer in London. It purported to reveal the secrets of the Masons by exposing the "catechism," or "questions and answers" which were the form in which Masonic lectures after the conferral of the degrees were given in those days. In 1998 Bro. Morris was given a copy of a pamphlet which had been published in the Post-Boy (note the similarity to the publisher, the Flying Post), and which was a response to the earlier publication the previous April of "A Mason's Examination." The Post-Boy pamphlet purported to be the *true* exposure of the secrets of the Freemasons, as opposed to what were termed the *pretended* secrets of "A Mason's Examination." If the story had ended here, it would have been just another "pamphlet war" between Masons and their detractors, or perhaps between competing enemies of Freemasonry. But then the Masons, who had concocted the exposure in the Post-Boy did something ingenious.

*In The Free-Mason's Accusation and Defence, a father, purportedly writing to his son, makes an extended reference to the "examination" of the Freemasons published in the Post Boy. The relevant statement begins as follows:*

*I remember, when I was last in Town, there was a Specimen of their Examinations published in the Post Boy; but so industrious were the Masons to suppress it that in a Week's time not one of the Papers was to be found; where-ever they saw 'em they made away with them.*

The excerpt, above, is from Bro. Morris' paper on the subject published in Heredom, the annual publication of the Scottish Rite Research Society (Vol. 7, 1998). In order to get the Post-Boy version to be considered as the "authentic" publication of the secrets of Freemasonry, they bought up all the copies of the version they had published that they could! And naturally everyone thought that these must be the "real" secrets if the Masons were so anxious to pick up and destroy every copy! However, the Post-Boy "exposure" of the ritual was a hoax. The Masons in London had published a bogus ritual, and then bought up as many copies as they could in order to make people think that these were the real secrets! It was a clever scheme, and it seemed to work. By that time no one could trust any of the pamphlets, and the pamphlet wars essentially came to an end.

Pamphlets were the "instant publications" of their day, and just as the Internet today can be the battleground of competing political and religious opinions, so the printing press in the 18th century was technological instrument of similar battles. Freemasonry participated in these battles – both those who opposed it, and those who supported it. And just as today there are hoaxes circulating around the Internet, so hoaxes about Freemasonry circulated from the "instant printing" of pamphlets in the 18th century. Freemasons in 1723 used the "18th Century Internet" to counter the attacks on the fraternity, and used it very cleverly. If they had had today's Internet available to them, they might have done even more damage to their detractors. But they did enough, and it is still a fascinating story! ❖



# LIGHTING THE WAY

THROUGH INNOVATION AND  
ENGINEERING GREATNESS,  
THREE FREEMASONS SHAPED  
THE WORLD AS WE KNOW IT

by Tania Rohan

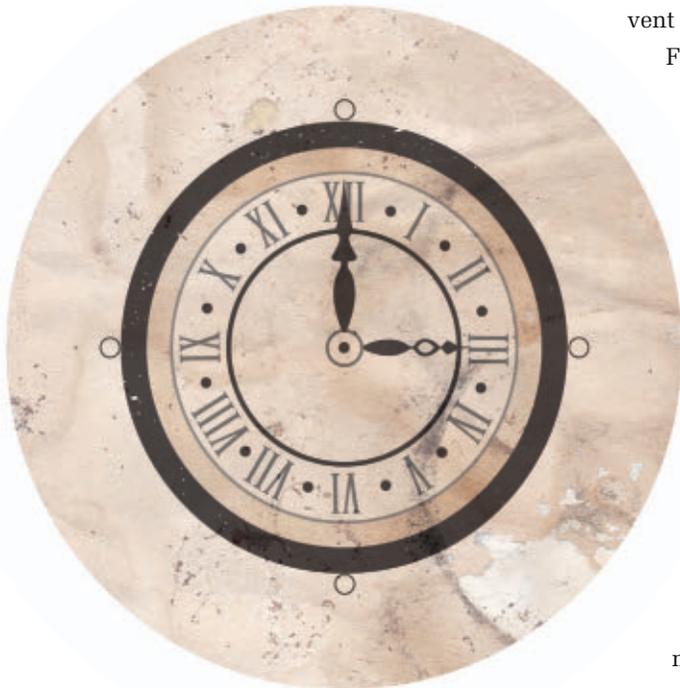
Imagine a world without standard time zones; Nevada without the Hoover Dam; or your daily life without a PC, the Internet, or Wikipedia. Thanks to three famous Freemasons, you don't have to. Perhaps their Masonic journeys in-

spired them to seek inventive solutions. Or maybe guidance from their fraternal peers helped them make their visions a reality. Whatever influence Freemasonry had on their achievements, the fact remains: The innovations of Sandford Fleming, Vannevar Bush, and Lester Allen Pelton helped shape the modern world.

### ***Father of (standard) time***

Today, Montreal and Toronto fall within the same time zone. But back in 1884, there was a 13-minute time difference between the two cities. That's because each municipality set its clocks according to the sun's local position, a method of timekeeping that worked well before the industrial revolution, but that proved totally unmanageable with the advent of railway and telegraph systems. That's where Sandford Fleming comes in.

From designing Canada's first postage stamp – the Three Penny Beaver – to advocating the construction of a submarine cable that would connect all of the British Empire, Fleming's technological contributions were varied in scope and far-reaching in geography. Born in Scotland in 1827, Fleming moved to Canada in his late teens. There, he worked as an engineer overseeing the construction of some of Canada's most vital rail lines. Through this work, Fleming observed that the current system of timekeeping hindered the entire infrastructure. Scheduling was unnecessarily complicated, and passengers traveling from one city to another had to reset their clocks at virtually every stop, in minute increments. Fleming came up with a solution: Universal Standard Time. According to his method, the world was divided into 24 time zones, each one covering 15 degrees of longitude, with neighboring zones differentiating by one hour.





It was an elegant solution to a complicated problem, but it would take some time and a lot of work before it was universally accepted. Fleming was up to the challenge. He traveled around the world to explain and promote his idea at meetings and conferences. And since he was a Freemason at St. Andrew's

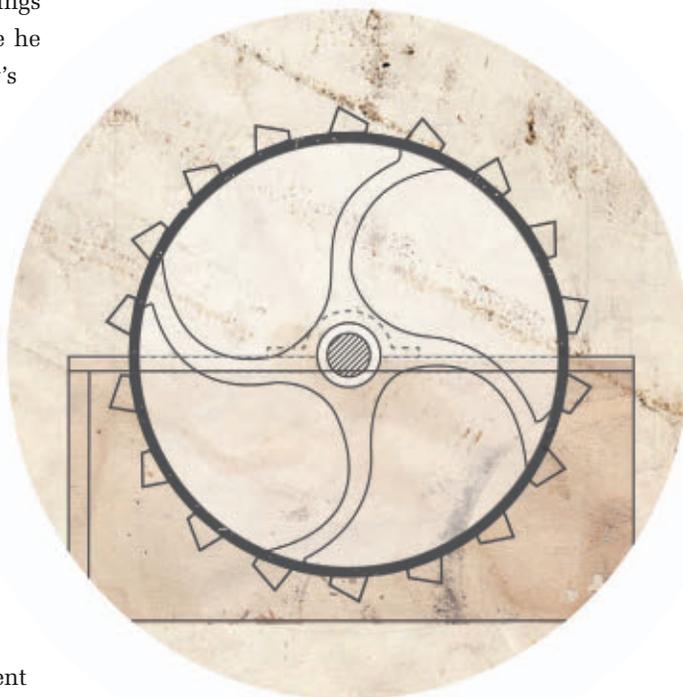
Lodge No. 1 York (Now St. Andrew's

Lodge No. 16), he was also able to draw upon the support of powerful members of the brotherhood, like Canada's fourth governor general, John Campbell. His quest, though long, was successful. By 1929, most of the world had adopted Universal Standard Time.

### ***Visions of the future***

The next time you load up your favorite website, consider for a moment that its very structure is based on the work of an early 20th century engineer. To call Vannevar Bush an overachiever would be an understatement. Born in 1890, Bush's ingenuity and capacity for leadership shone through from an early age. In high school, he was vice president of his sophomore class and president of his junior class. He went on to study engineering at Tufts College near Boston, where he earned both his bachelor's and master's degrees in four years. For his master's thesis, he developed and patented the "profile tracer," which was used in surveying to calculate distances over uneven ground. Later, he earned his doctorate in engineering at MIT. He was also a Master Mason and served as master of Richard C. Maclaurin Lodge in Cambridge, Mass.

The profile tracer was the first of many innovations for Bush, who designed and patented 46 inventions over the course of his career. Bush's best-known achievement was his differential analyzer, an analog computer that could solve complex differential equations through drive shafts and gears. It was used to calculate the ballistics table during World War II. Bush is also widely heralded for a



groundbreaking article he penned for Atlantic Monthly. In "As We May Think," Bush envisioned a futuristic device called a "memex" in which people could store books, records, and communications, all interconnected by

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*Continued next page*

## *Cooking with Technology*

From world-famous brothers to everyday Masons, innovations and contributions by members of the craft span the technology spectrum. John Logan Parsons was a Midwesterner who gained engineering expertise while in the Naval Academy. Born in Missouri, Parsons designed bakeries for Kroger grocery stores before coming to San Jose, Calif. for a job as Safeway's engineering manager.

Parsons work at Safeway helped improve the efficiency, quality control, and sanitation standards of the grocery chain's bakeries across the United States. His redesign of a plant in Richmond resulted in that facility becoming one of the country's most technologically advanced. A high level of automation at the plant minimized handling and exposure of baking ingredients, while a new layout improved efficiency by reducing the size of the production line.

A dedicated Mason for nearly 50 years, Parsons was a member of Palo Alto-Roller Lodge No. 346. He came from a family of Freemasons dating all the way back to the 1700s. Though he died in 2003, his Masonic legacy continues today through his grandson, John L. Parsons III, a member of Peninsula Lodge No. 168 in Redwood City.

“associative trails.” The memex's linking system was the inspiration for hyperlink text we now see online. In the same article, Bush predicted the emergence of the Internet, personal computers, online encyclopedias, and voice recognition technology.

### ***A powerful discovery***

Every year, nearly a million people tour the Hoover Dam. This hydroelectric power plant on the border between Nevada and Arizona generates 4.2 billion kilowatt-hours annually, supplying power across three states. The dam is probably America's most famous hydroelectric plant, but it is by no means the only one. Hydropower is one of the world's most widely used renewable energy sources. And if it weren't for an accidental observation by California Mason Lester Allen Pelton, in the 1870s, it might not exist.

Pelton was born in Ohio in 1829, but moved to California during the Gold Rush with dreams of making it in the mines. But he wasn't successful as a miner, and instead earned his living as a fisherman and carpenter. Still, his interest in gold mining – and the technologies it leveraged – remained. At the time, there was a need for new power sources to run mining machinery. Steam power was the most pervasive, but it required large amounts of wood and coal. Water power provided an attractive alternative, but the turbines of the era were highly inefficient.

Then one day, while Pelton, then a millwright, was watching a turbine in action, something unexpected happened. A piece had come loose from the machine, misaligning the wheel and redirecting its water flow. Surprisingly, this caused the turbine to spin faster and more efficiently. Pelton took his findings and set about designing the best water turbine the world had ever seen. In 1880, he received his first patent for the Pelton Runner, which reached over 90% efficiency (its predecessors were only about 40% efficient). His invention became the standard turbine upon which all future designs were based and paved the way for the massive turbines we see today. In 1929, the brothers of Gravel Range Lodge No. 59 – the same lodge Pelton once called his own – erected a monument in Camptonville to honor his memory and invention. ✦

# WORLD WIDE LODGE

IN THE HEART OF THE UNITED KINGDOM, ONE LODGE LOGS INTO THE BROTHERHOOD AND DISCOVERS A RICH WORLD WITHIN

by *Michelle Simone*

In many ways, Internet Lodge No. 9659 is like any other typical lodge. Applicants turn in forms for consideration; officers are elected and installed; and members and their ladies enjoy a vibrant social network. The difference? Members are spread throughout every continent, and aside from a few optional meetings each year, the majority of these activities happen online.

### ***Thinking outside the lodge***

Masons have gathered for centuries to learn, socialize, and share the lessons of the craft in lodges throughout California and the world. But in the latter part of the 20th century, the concept of the lodge room as the primary hub of Masonic dialogue began to wane. Pioneering Masonic leaders began what are now commonplace practices – exchanging ideas over email, distributing newsletters electronically, and posting lodge calendars online.

A small group of Masons who met on a UK Masonic mailing list were inspired by these changes – so much so, that they believed the fraternity was ready to do more. They viewed the advent of digital communications as an opportunity to expand the borders of local lodges to encompass different communities, countries, and even continents. They approached the United Grand Lodge of England (UGLE) with a visionary proposal – to form a truly universal Masonic lodge, one that would accept Master Masons from all over the world. Chartered under the UGLE, they would meet and conduct business almost entirely online, with only a few in-person meetings each year. Much to their delight, UGLE accepted and a charter was granted. In



January 1998, Internet Lodge was consecrated at Freemasons' Hall in Manchester.

### ***Logging into logistics***

Internet Lodge has two faces: A publicly accessible site, which provides basic information about Masonry and the lodge for general audiences and prospective members, and a second members-only site, which acts

*Continued next page*

# AROUND THE WORLD



as the virtual lodge room. Here, members can view summons, meeting notes, and legislations; track membership applications; vote on proposed programs; and connect with brethren throughout the world.

When submitting their petition, Internet Lodge's founders carefully structured the logistics of lodge administration. Because the lodge's three annual meetings are the only time some members may meet face to face, socialization and sharing research are priorities; finding time to practice and perform

degree ceremonies would be difficult. The wide geographic spread of applicants would also make verification of character and intent of non-Masons virtually impossible. To address these challenges, Internet Lodge chose to require that applicants must already be Master Masons in a lodge whose grand lodge is recognized by the UGLE. Once members are initiated, they are free to maintain their membership in their home lodge, and most do – a decision that pleases Internet Lodge's founders.

Founders also realized that in-person voting would bring lodge business to a near standstill throughout most of the year – and would require members beyond Manchester to have the funds and flexibility for frequent international travel. They

established online balloting through a bespoke database system, which ensures that only members can vote; they can only vote once; and the progress of votes is not publicized until voting is closed.

### ***The officers are online***

From the outside, the challenge of establishing a continuing line of officers committed to the same dedicated and visionary approach established by Internet Lodge's founders seems daunting. But there is a process in place for this as well. Because geographic locations limit existing officers from personally meeting officer candidates to evaluate character and commitment to the craft, incoming officers are selected through a unique manifesto system.

The process works like this: Each member who would like to be considered for the lodge's officer line submits a manifesto – a document that outlines his theme for Masonic programming to be implemented during his year as master. This theme can include any course of Masonic study – past, present, or future (themes have included Falling Numbers in Freemasonry, Masonic Education, and Technology in Freemasonry). Manifestos are posted on the lodge's internal site for review, and members vote electronically for their favorite approach. The writer of the winning manifesto is then appointed by the lodge master as his junior warden, and the lodge officers spend the next two years helping the new officer achieve the goals he has outlined.

The officer goals established through the manifesto system helps the lodge meet its goal “to provide an Internet-based environment in which members of the lodge can work together and carry out Masonic research and collaborative projects across international boundaries.”

### ***Spanning the globe***

Today, Internet Lodge has 333 members and counting; they receive about 80 applications per year. Current members represent 34 countries and 23 U.S. states, and range in age from 28 to 87.



#### **WEB EXTRA**

*Read a report by Internet Lodge's Technology Study Workgroup on "Use of the Internet by Freemasonry" at: <http://internet.lodge.org.uk/component/edocman/?task=document.viewdoc&id=59>*

They also have an active ladies' group – the LILies. Comprised of about 60 members, LILies communicate through their own correspondence system to make friends, socialize, and plan activities.

Assistant Secretary and Co-Founder John Dutchman-Smith says, “Because the lodge is not limited by in-person meetings, its members remain in contact across continents on a daily basis.”

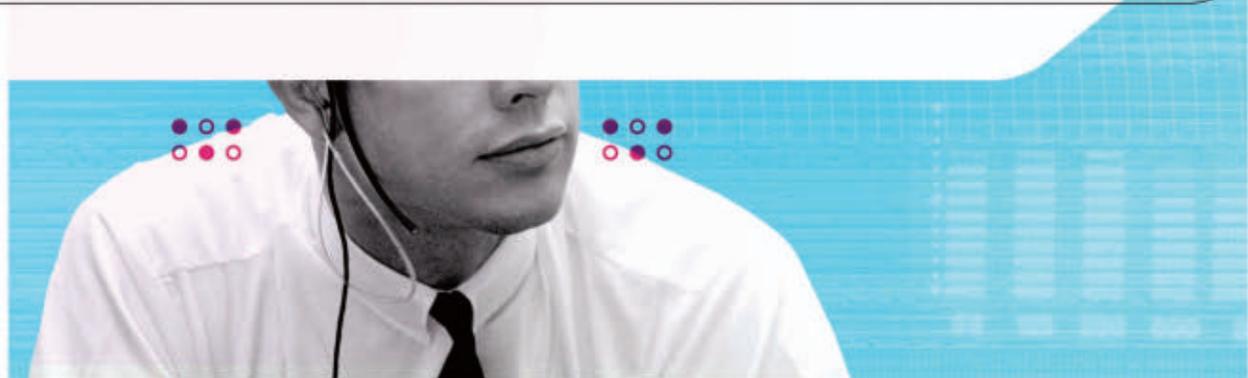
Indeed, one of the lodge's primary aims is to enable “members of the lodge to communicate and exchange ideas on a world-wide basis and to promote wider understanding of Freemasonry as it is practiced in different Constitutions.”

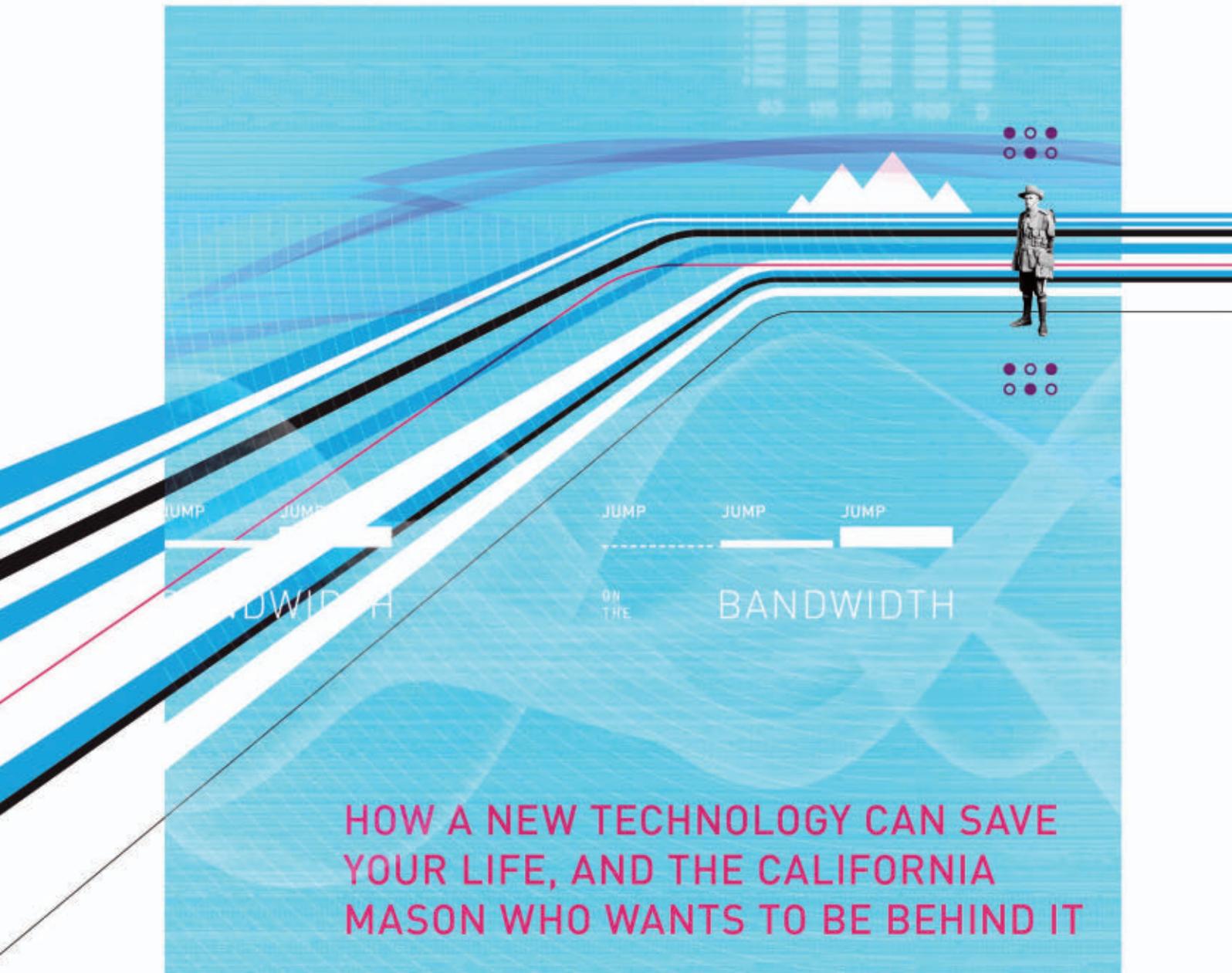
According to Dutchman-Smith, when members “meet” in cyberspace, scheduling barriers, mobility concerns, and even time zones disappear. The possibilities – like the Internet itself – seem limitless. He explains, “I've had daily contact with hundreds of Freemasons from all over the world. I've witnessed and been involved in Masonic ceremonies not only in the UK but also in Florida, Holland, Portugal, Georgia, Canada, Slovenia, Malta, and Minnesota. I've become a member of lodges in Brazil, New Hampshire, Alberta, and Texas. And I've made countless real friends both in the UK and overseas whom I wouldn't otherwise have met.” ❖



# JUMP ON THE

# BANDWIDTH





## HOW A NEW TECHNOLOGY CAN SAVE YOUR LIFE, AND THE CALIFORNIA MASON WHO WANTS TO BE BEHIND IT

by *Laura Normand*

FIVE YEARS AGO IN MAHALLA, EGYPT, a Bay Area college student was forced into the back of a police car. Outside, protesters stood shoulder to shoulder, chanting and shouting. Thousands of police troops swarmed the town. Clashes between security forces and protesters were turning deadly. Citizens hauled off by police sometimes disappeared altogether.

From the backseat of the police car, James Buck slipped his phone out of his pocket and typed one word into Twitter.

Within seconds, his friends in Berkeley had contacted the U.S. Embassy. Shortly after, he was freed by the U.S. State Department, unharmed.

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### PASS WITH CARE

Technology that changes society is created, more often than not, by devotees: the Thomas Edisons of the world, who try 999 times so that on the thousandth, we have the light bulb. It takes a certain focus. Or perhaps, obsession.

John Sposato, an electrical engineer and newly raised Master Mason at Mountain View De Anza Lodge No. 194, can relate. Since 1999, he has had his eye on the very technology that connected that Bay Area student to the U.S. State Department. He wants to design a device that would ensure urgent messages get through, every time. It will work off a natural resource few of us ever stop to consider: the radio spectrum.

In 1959, even half a century after radio communication had been introduced commercially, radio remained a “mysterious technology” – so called by Ronald Coase, a Nobel-winning economist, in a paper that redefined American radio regulation. Mysterious or not, our demand for this technology has skyrocketed since, as one wireless device and then another find their way into our hands.

To understand the radio spectrum, we might imagine a freeway. Each lane represents bandwidth, a range of frequencies assigned to a wireless service – cellphones, radios, television, satellites, and even radar.

Right now on this freeway, largely thanks to Dr. Coase, we observe no-pass lanes. Cellphones stay in the cellphone lane and satellites stay in theirs – even if their assigned lane is clogged and the adjacent lanes are wide open. Keep in mind, the

radio spectrum is a finite resource, like water or lumber or natural gas. When many of us try to merge onto the same kind of bandwidth at once – the Wi-Fi network in a crowded coffee shop, for example – we find ourselves in a traffic jam, blood pressure rising, as we wait for a simple Web page to load.

The key to avoiding such traffic jams, Sposato explains, is something called dynamic spectrum allocation (DSA) and cognizant radio. This technology could allow us to hop on any available lane, zipping our signal along to its destination. Nice as this sounds for the casual YouTube surfer, the real need is elsewhere – for first responders in an emergency; soldiers in combat, waiting on radio orders; and even tweets for help from a U.S. student in Egypt.

### DREAM TEAM

Sposato believes he can design a device, using DSA, that would not only allow “lane-changing,” but would also prioritize which communications get in the fastest lane. In other words, the connections that matter most would get through first.

“The potential is unlimited for how we could improve ourselves as a civilization,” Sposato says. “The firefighter would get priority to the spectrum, rather than someone checking his email. Someone on a cellphone could call a soldier in a foxhole on the other side of the planet.”

“And the good news,” he insists, “is there are ways to do this.”

He should know. Sposato is a program manager specialist for satellite communication at Space Systems/Loral in Palo Alto, where his team makes technology work a whopping 23,000 miles out in space. He applies many of the processes behind DSA daily; the rest, he has learned from extensive research and a background in radar, radio frequency, and microwave design.

But the DSA project requires more than his expertise. Sposato wants to create a world-class technology company, appealing to “great minds” for everything from software development to marketing to legislation with the Federal Communications Commission. This sounds daunting, but Sposato is determined.



JOHN SPOSATO, A MASTER MASON AT MOUNTAIN VIEW DE ANZA LODGE NO. 194, WANTS TO ENSURE URGENT MESSAGES REACH THEIR DESTINATION - EVERY TIME.

“Silicon Valley is ripe with technologists,” he says. “My challenge is to reach out to them. Together we can do something not only for ourselves, but for everyone else.”

**THEY SAID, “REALLY?” AND I SAID, “YES.”**

During previous employment at Hughes Aircraft Company, then a major American aerospace and defense contractor, Sposato was asked to assess and reduce the time it took to manufacture a satellite. When he presented a way to do so by a factor of three, the team was stunned.

“They said, ‘Really?’” Sposato recalls. “And I said, ‘Yes.’ And I went and proved it.”

*“TOGETHER WE CAN DO SOMETHING NOT ONLY FOR OURSELVES, BUT FOR EVERYONE ELSE.”*

“People have told me throughout my whole career, ‘You can’t do that,’” he adds good-naturedly. “And I have gone into the laboratory and done it.”

Sposato’s father, incidentally, was a nuclear physicist. He was also a labor attorney, and set the U.S. case law requiring employers to purchase safety shoes for employees. He served in the Army Air Corps in World War II.

“I remember my father telling me that everyone thinks the U.S. was successful in the second world war because we were this big powerful country,” Sposato says. “And while that is true, it was a few extraordinary individuals who had vision and led the group.”

“My dad’s lesson was that anything worth doing requires extraordinary individuals,” he continues. “[DSA technology] is very important, not just to first responders, but to us as a society for cultural issues, and issues of justice. I feel that it’s a requirement for me to stand up and show leadership.”

Like many Masons, he frames his ambitions in terms of the good that he can do.

“I have a passion to challenge myself every day to do better. That’s almost an axiom as a Freemason,” Sposato tells me. “When I walk upright and am doing well for myself, it puts me in a position to help others.” ♦

## Three Countries, One Movie, and the iPhone

In L.A., another Mason is telling a story with artists he has never met, using technology that's as unexpected as it is ubiquitous.

"Departure," which premieres this month at the Macworld/iWorld conference in San Francisco, is a short movie filmed entirely on the iPhone. It's also a global collaboration. The film, about a policewoman unraveling her family's past, is the combined work of three teams in three countries: the U.S., Belarus, and France. Each team filmed a portion of the script on location.

Satie Gossett, a Master Mason at Liberal Arts Lodge No. 677 in Los Angeles, is the director of the U.S. team. His segment introduces the main character as a child, and then flashes forward to her as an officer in a botched drug deal.

With a traditional camera crew, the eight-minute piece would take a week to film. Using the iPhone, Gossett and his team filmed their footage in about half that time. "Traditionally, we'd get our main shot, and then get in close for perspectives. Each time we'd have to relight. For this project, we used all natural light," Gossett explains. "The iPhone doesn't do well with night shots, so we switched the theme to daytime."

Some of the scenes take place inside a police car. A traditional video camera would have to film from outside the vehicle. But the iPhone could be mounted to the inside of the window. Gossett says. "It gives an unprecedented view of the inside of the car, without putting the car on a rig or having to tow it along."

The film world has taken notice of Gossett's team (Tom Cruise's website even praised the project) and there is hope for expanding "Departure" into a feature film or television series. In the meantime, technology is making filmmaking more accessible to all of us - and Gossett thinks that's a good thing.

"The iPhone gives another option, one less excuse for saying, 'I can't make a film,'" Gossett says. "You can edit it on your laptop. With Internet distribution, you can promote your work. On YouTube, if you get enough people to see your work, advertisers will pay."

In his personal life, Gossett uses an iPhone, but he's quick to add "sometimes too much." He places a higher premium on relationships. And that's partly what brought him to Masonry. After growing up in DeMolay, Gossett rediscovered the fraternity through a fellow DeMolay, now a Mason. In 2007 he joined Liberal Arts Lodge, where his DeMolay friend is the current secretary and a past master.

"It helps me to know that there's another community out there that supports me," Gossett says. "In the lodge there are people in their 80s, and there are kids fresh out of high school. We all meet with a common goal."

I ask Gossett if there's any relationship between Freemasonry and technology. He doesn't even pause: "They're both about connecting people."



JUMP JUMP JUMP



SATIE GOSSETT (LEFT) DIRECTS ACTORS ON THE SET OF HIS FILM, "DEPARTURE."

JUMP JUMP JUMP

# THE TECH TOOLS OF A MODERN GRAND LODGE

## IN TECHNOLOGY-RICH CALIFORNIA, GRAND LODGE IS KEEPING UP WITH THE TIMES

by Laura Normand

Last July, Assistant Grand Secretary James Banta logged online to teach a leadership webinar. The webinar format was new to the training, and so were Banta's surroundings. He was sitting in his car in a bank parking lot, using one of the few wireless hotspots in the area. He was vacationing with his family near Lassen Volcanic National Park.

But Banta couldn't claim he had "traveled" – albeit virtually – the furthest that day. One of his students was sitting in a hotel room in Austria.

It is one of the most recent examples of an evolving fraternity. Not so long ago, lodge membership rolls existed only in voluminous archives, and statewide meetings required a lengthy journey to Annual Communication once a year. But these days in the Golden State, lodge secretaries click online to submit lodge reports; vital notices from Grand Lodge are disseminated

### MEMBER COMMUNICATIONS

- » Freemason.org
- » The Leader e-newsletter
- » California Freemason magazine online, including "Web extra" content
- » For nine consecutive years, the California Grand Lodge has received national recognition from Association Media and Publishing for excellence in its publications and websites

by email within seconds; and members, no matter how far-flung, can convene for important leadership training sessions on their computers.

"In 2011, smartphone sales worldwide overtook PC and tablet sales combined," points out Brent Markwood, Grand Lodge's director of technology development. "Members should increasingly expect to use all of these devices for instant access to resources, and to communicate and collaborate with other members across the fraternity."

Combine new devices with dramatically increased networking speeds, and Markwood says we can hardly imagine the technology that'll be part of the California Masonic experience 10 years from now.

### CONVENIENCE

- » Masonic Traveler lodge locator app
- » NEW: Event management system, improving registration for trainings/events
- » NEW: California Freemason magazine app for iPhone, iPad, Androids, and Kindle Fire

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# IN CALIFORNIA

## LEADERSHIP TOOLS

- » Member Center for membership database, references, and publications in electronic formats
- » iMember for lodge reports
- » Lodge Management Certification Program (LMCP) webinars
- » COMING SOON: Intaact Web-based accounting and reporting
- » *“Technology has opened up possibilities that we never considered before. Training webinars allow more people to participate, and to do so from the convenience of their own home, while still providing live in-person engagement.” – James Banta, Assistant Grand Secretary*

## SOCIAL MEDIA

- » Masons of California Facebook: 12,000 “likes” and counting!
- » California Masonic Assistance Facebook
- » Twitter
- » YouTube
- » *In 2012, The Masons of California Facebook page received national recognition from Association Media and Publishing for media innovation in social media strategy*

## NEW MEMBER EXPERIENCE

- » Electronic application
- » Discover Masonry on freemason.org
- » COMING SOON: Interactive, Web-based candidate education
- » COMING SOON: Masonic education modules via Web and mobile apps

Behind all of Grand Lodge’s tech tools are common goals: Enhance the membership experience; expand Masonic education; improve leadership and management; create connections beyond the lodge; and improve philanthropic programs.

If these goals sound familiar, they should. They are pillars of the 2010-15 strategic plan and, throughout California, Masons and communities are feeling the effects of their implementation. Both virtually and in reality. ✧

# FACES OF MASONRY

MEET BRAD BERGMAN,  
SOLAR ENERGY EXPERT AND  
SUSTAINABILITY PROFESSOR,  
MASON SINCE 2004

*by Michelle Simone*

California is a global leader in solar energy, and Brad Bergman has been on the front lines from the beginning. A former Naval nuclear mechanic, Bergman, a Master Mason at Victorville Lodge No. 634, came into the industry somewhat serendipitously – by answering a newspaper ad. What followed is a career and passion for sustainable energy.

## ***In his own words:***

### WHAT DREW HIM TO MASONRY:

*I was in a fraternity at Georgia Tech, and we had an alumnus come in who was a Freemason. He said that joining Masonry was a way for him to be part of a brotherhood, even after college. That idea stayed in the back of my mind, and when I arrived in California, I came across an article about Freemasonry in a magazine. It intrigued me, so I found the Grand Lodge website and submitted an inquiry form.*

### WHAT LODGE LEADERSHIP HAS TAUGHT HIM:

*I learned a lot of invaluable leadership and managerial skills while moving up through my lodge officer line. A lot of those experiences I'm able to use in my management role here. You can't get this knowledge from business classes or online; it's experience you can't pay for.*



### FROM LODGE ROOM TO BOARDROOM:

*Personally, I hope to leave every place a little bit better than it was. As master of my lodge, I worked to make improvements so the lodge would be in a better place when I left it. I bring the same philosophy to my solar power career. ✧*

# HIGH-TECH MASONRY

## FREEMASONRY AND TECHNOLOGY: A MATCH MADE IN SILICON VALLEY

by Reinhard Kargl

California's Santa Clara Valley is the biggest high-tech manufacturing center in the United States. About 300 of 1,000 private sector employees are high-tech workers, which gives this region the highest tech worker concentration of all metropolitan areas. Altogether, thousands of technology companies in "Silicon Valley" provide a total of 387,000 high-tech jobs.

And yet, in the midst of companies driving our digital devices and shaping our future, old traditions and fraternal bonds still matter. An example for a fruitful marriage of old and new can be found at Willow Glen-Fraternity Lodge No. 399 in San Jose, the heart of Silicon Valley.

"Up to 70% of our active members now work in the tech sector," says Anthony Harrison, an enthusiastic 26-year old brother whose professional activity involves high-tech energy solutions and green building design. Perhaps, Harrison reasons, this should not come as a surprise. "Masons have always believed in scientific discovery for the benefit of society and were interested in applying the cutting edge technology of their time to solve problems." Harrison sees this kind of thinking reflected in the second degree, which he found deeply inspiring.

Indeed, the history of his lodge confirms Harrison's point. In the lodge's early days, many members came from the "professional trades," as they were called. "Most were electricians, architectural engineers, or draftsmen," recalls Joe Campbell, a 32-year high-tech-industry veteran and three-time past master of Willow Glen-Fraternity. "These fields were high-level technology then."

Today, most candidates knocking at the lodge's door work in the information industry. "And it turns out that members who actively attend our meetings tend to be more on the younger side now," reports Scott Gillette, the lodge's junior warden. The company for which he manages engineering teams "provides an integrated solution that enables storage, delivery, and management of network data and content." Except for a few retirees, all other officers work in the tech sector as well.

Harrison has a theory for why his lodge is attracting young techies: "We tend to network and make friends among co-workers," he reasons. And although Masonry is not conspicuously touted in the workplace, most younger Masons like himself feel no need to conceal their membership in the fraternity. "I don't hide it," says Harrison, "I wear a ring, and I do have people asking questions." (He has prepared responses for them.) Most importantly, Harrison says, one may notice that there is something different about a co-worker, who may be distinguished by certain values and conduct. In such instances, Masonry becomes a topic of conversation, and connections are made.

Of course, being led by technology experts has started to transform the lodge. "People in high-tech tend to be analytical," says Campbell. "Evaluating our membership roster and





demographics 10 years ago, we found that out of almost 300 members, only about 125 were still living within 50 miles.”

Adjusting for the infirm or those unable to drive, only 70 could easily attend meetings. It became clear that a monthly Trestleboard was not enough to sustain fraternal relationships. The lodge began to heavily promote email and encouraged all members to get connected. A digital version of the Trestleboard was announced at every meeting and is now received by half the membership.

To help members stay in touch throughout the month, lodge leaders developed email lists. Lists are divided by location, and members can choose to receive all information, or only information relevant to where they live.

The lodge has also adopted the use of online fundraising platforms. Using PayPal – a company also based in San Jose – Willow Glen-Fraternity was able to collect the highest amount for public education in the entire district. “Half of our membership feels very comfortable with this,” says Harrison. And those who don’t can still mail a check.

But this is only the beginning, Harrison thinks. “Technology will be the key component in ongoing membership development, if we want to encourage more participation from our generation. We are used to finding things online. Online is where we network, socialize, bank, and trade. Freemasonry is a network too, but if it’s not online, it will be lost to future generations.”

Due to the transitory nature of today’s work environment, young lodge members often move. “The upside is that technology now allows brothers to retain their relationship with the lodge,” says Gillette. He cites as an example the lodge’s assistant secretary, who lives in the UK but remains connected online.

At the same time, the lodge takes care not to isolate its older members. “We found a generational divide,” recalls Campbell. “Everyone younger than 45 to 50 had an email

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# IN CALIFORNIA

account. Above that age, the probability [of a member having email] dropped off sharply.”

The monthly “snail mail” Trestleboard still exists and the lodge reports excellent experiences with another “old” technology: the telephone.

“Digital communication can be impersonal,” agrees Harrison, “and email can easily be misunderstood.”

By contrast, committees making personal calls have the advantage of allowing for a real-time, personal conversation. Often, questions come up and can be answered right on the spot.

“Especially the older generation really appreciates the fact that someone took the time to call,” knows Gillette. “It shows you care and creates a bond of brotherhood.”



GREEN BUILDING DESIGN AND CUTTING-EDGE ENERGY SOLUTIONS TOP THE LIST OF ANTHONY HARRISON'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE TECH WORLD.



SCOTT GILLETTE, JUNIOR WARDEN AT WILLOW GLEN-FRATERNITY LODGE NO. 399, MANAGES ENGINEERING TEAMS IN SILICON VALLEY.

In fact, adds Campbell, serving on a calling committee is a perfect opportunity to involve retired brothers. “They like to chat on the phone, and they have the time to do it.”

Although the lodge strives to use technology to improve communication, it understands that cyberspace will never replace the physical lodge. Most importantly, Campbell says, Masons should not be afraid of technology, but must mind its limitations.

“Although the way we communicate and interact has changed in the last 100 years, 95 percent of our foundation has remained as it was. This foundation is the personal, fraternal relationship.” ✦

# ENHANCED ADMINISTRATION FOR THE DIGITAL AGE

## AT LOS CERRITOS LODGE, PROGRAMS AND GADGETS CONNECT AND INSPIRE

by Heather Boerner

Jeff Schimsky carries all his lodge's data – membership information, budget, calendar, phone and email addresses for all committee chairs – on his wrist.

This sounds like an advance worthy of Q, but Schimsky's more Inspector Gadget than James Bond. A self-described "geek," Schimsky put the entirety of the lodge's data on an iPod mini, a device typically used to store data and music. It's one of several innovations he and other leaders of Los Cerritos Lodge No. 674 are using to make the lodge run more smoothly.

"I let my geek flag fly," he says, laughing. "Some of the things we were doing [when I joined] hurt my geek heart."

### **Technology update**

When Schimsky was raised in 2003, the behind-the-scenes systems needed to be optimized. Lodge correspondence was going to the secretary's home. When officers needed to call members, they would have to wait their turn to use the phone tree machine housed in the lodge hall, which is owned by Long Beach Lodge No. 327 – and the calls took all day. Mailings sometimes took weeks to arrive; other times they didn't arrive at all, because records were a combination of paper and computerized. Sometimes mailings went to widows, because deceased members hadn't been removed from the system.

Schimsky knew the lodge needed help. He remembers thinking, "We need to geek this place up."

So Schimsky, 43, contacted Dan Moran, a past master of Long Beach Lodge.

"I came not just to sit in the chair but to revitalize things," says Moran, who affiliated with Los Cerritos Lodge in 2005.

Those "things" included revamping the technical systems. The lodge's website was outdated and the lodge still used dial-up Internet. Moran fixed both.



JEFF SCHIMSKY AND DAN MORAN CONFER ON THE NEWEST TECHNOLOGIES AVAILABLE TO ADVANCE LODGE OPERATIONS.

### **Reaching out**

Next, Moran tackled the lodge's membership database. He moved all the lodge's records to iMember, then a relatively new program. Immediately, he knew how many people were members of the lodge; whether they

*Continued next page*

## WEB EXTRA

Check out the new Los Cerritos Lodge website at [www.loscerritoslodge.org](http://www.loscerritoslodge.org).



were living or deceased; their ages, professions, and email addresses, if they had them; and how they preferred to be contacted.

He cross referenced the lodge's list with Grand Lodge records, ensuring that all members would receive correspondence from Grand Lodge. He removed deceased members from mailing lists, so their widows wouldn't be reminded of their loss.

Once he had that information, he looked for an alternative to the hall's phone tree machine. Moran found an online system that allows the lodge, for eight cents a call, to record a message, enter phone numbers, and send a phone message to everyone in 20 minutes.

He also moved all lodge-related material and the lodge's computer from the secretary's home and installed a program to allow officers to log in to the lodge computer from their personal computers – no extra trip to lodge required.

"We wanted to make a digital strategy for the lodge," says Moran. "In order for a modern-day master to accomplish a lot of his goals, he has to have information at his fingertips."

### ***Lodge in the cloud***

For his part, Schimsky, a graphic designer, revamped the Trestleboard, and rebranded all lodge materials. It's a small thing, says Moran, but important toward helping members feel like they're getting a high level of service.

Once Moran's terms as master and then secretary were up, Schimsky's began. He has served as Los Cerritos' master twice and is the current secretary. His father, Arnold Schimsky – also a tech guy – is the treasurer.

The younger Schimsky has built on Moran's improvements, mostly by moving the lodge's data to the cloud. Cloud computing is a fancy way of describing programs that store data off-site through the Internet. Think of Gmail or online banking – neither uses your computer's memory, but both are capable of storing vast amounts of data, accessible from any computer with the right username and password.

For instance, Schimsky installed Google Apps, a suite of online-based programs that allow the lodge to do word processing, handle spreadsheets, and create events and calendars. What's great about this system is that more than one person can view and make changes to the documents at a time. For example, recently Schimsky and the incoming master, Bill Melanson, were talking on the phone about the lodge's budget. From each of their respective homes, they were able to jointly review and make edits to the budget document.

"It creates a lot more transparency in the process," says Schimsky.

Today, all of the lodge's officers have officer email addresses through Google Mail, so they can easily separate personal and lodge correspondence. There's a [master@loscerritoslodge.org](mailto:master@loscerritoslodge.org), [secretary@loscerritoslodge.org](mailto:secretary@loscerritoslodge.org), etc. There's even a group address, [leaders@loscerritoslodge.org](mailto:leaders@loscerritoslodge.org), that contacts everyone in the officer line. Each time the positions change, the previous year's emails go into a folder labeled by the year.

"This provides context," says Schimsky. "If something comes up this year, I can say, 'There was an issue on this last year. Look in '2011' and for this person.'"

There's also Google Drive, where the lodge uploads documents and stores them safely online, where anyone who needs them and has the password can access them from any computer. And just recently, the lodge was able to use Google Hangouts to hold a meeting when the participants weren't able to gather in person.

Schimsky is still working on another website redesign. His current goal is to revamp the lodge's technology to focus more on assisting members' Masonic journeys.

Now that the administrative details are in place, he says, "The final frontier is to communicate with members and non-members more effectively through our website." ♦

# THE KEY TO A GOOD WORKOUT

## HOW THE MASONIC HOME AT UNION CITY CAN FIT A PERSONAL TRAINER IN EVERY RESIDENT'S POCKET

by *Laura Normand*

There's a saying about Masonry: It's like joining a gym. The more you show up, the more you get out of it.

That's fine by many of the Masons who choose to live at the Masonic Homes. For them, showing up at lodge was never really a problem. The gym, on the other hand, is a different story.

"You know how that goes," Jack McClellan, a Union City resident, says drily. "If you get away from it, it takes awhile to get back."

Not anymore.

### ***This is not your grandfather's gym***

In April, the gym at the Masonic Home at Union City was renovated with state-of-the-art equipment, which would be the envy of any health club; indeed, the same equipment is installed in a nearby five-star resort. Sleek, lightweight, and comfortable, it's also smart. In Union City, residents essentially carry a personal trainer around with them on a "key," an electronic device about the size and weight of a pack of Juicy Fruit.

The electronic key measures physical activity. It also interacts with the Home's new

gym equipment. Residents who go through the gym orientation can create a personalized workout plan, and upload it onto the key. From there, it's as easy as showing up.

Take McClellan, age 83. Every time he goes to the gym, he checks in with his key. It tells him which exercise machine to visit first. He plugs his key into that machine, and

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JACK MCCLELLAN AND HAROLD SCOTT MEASURE THEIR PROGRESS ON ONE OF THE MANY EXERCISE MACHINES AVAILABLE TO RESIDENTS AT THE MASONIC HOME AT UNION CITY.

## MASONIC ASSISTANCE

it tells him how to adjust the seat and range of motion. It tells him how many pounds to lift, and how many repetitions and sets to complete. It counts down the rest period between sets. It directs him to the next machine on his fitness schedule.

Like any good personal trainer, it also keeps track of progress. Upon completing a day's workout, McClellan's key analyzes all of his physical activity, and shows his progress towards his fitness goals. If he skipped any machines, it reminds him that he's not done. If his exercise plan includes different workouts on different days, it keeps track of that, too.

Gone are the days of mystifying gym equipment, scribbling down weights and reps, waiting to talk to a personal trainer to make sure you're on track.

"It's so easy, that it makes it fun," McClellan says. "This equipment does most of the thinking for you. I'm always anxious to get back over there."

### ***Tailor-made technology***

"I told my kids, when they get to be 50 years old they oughtta take on some kind of exercise regimen, because it makes your life at 60 and on better if you keep going. That's what I've always tried to do," says Chuck Miller, 84. He moved to the Union City campus right around the time the new gym was introduced, and has been going three to five times a week since.

"I don't want to be an Atlas," he jokes. "I'm trying to do just enough exercise to keep me limbered up for golf. That's why I think the program is good. You can set your own goal."

Harold and Josephine Scott, ages 86 and 91, go almost every day.

"This brand-new equipment makes it very easy," Harold Scott says. "It's nice to have it to keep you on track. Most of all, it keeps you on your toes. Puts you on a program."

The Masonic Homes are invested in a philosophy of successful aging based on personal fulfillment. Of course, every person defines that differently. And the customized gym technology fits in nicely.

"Every resident has a program that has been specifically designed for them. It really helps us address individual needs and goals, and work around physical limitations," says Merryn Oliveira, director of active living. "We're not just giving a one-size-fits-all approach."



THANKS TO STATE-OF-THE-ART EQUIPMENT, JACK MCCLELLAN LOOKS FORWARD TO VISITING THE GYM AT THE MASONIC HOME AT UNION CITY.



HAROLD SCOTT TESTS OUT A WEIGHT MACHINE DURING ONE OF HIS ROUTINE VISITS TO THE GYM. USING NEW ELECTRONIC KEYS, RESIDENTS ARE ABLE TO TRACK THEIR OWN PROGRESS AND SEE IMPROVEMENTS AS THEY HAPPEN.

During certain hours, staff uses the gym, too, including the key card program.

“We are all aging,” Oliveira says simply. “This isn’t something that only benefits those over a certain age. We know that living in a healthy way helps you in all aspects of your life, whether you’re 20 or 90.”

In the new gym, the key – literally – is technology. ❖

## Skype Me

Two summers ago, 103-year-old Mary Schwartz sat down at a computer in the Masonic Home at Union City and saw something remarkable: her daughter and granddaughter live from Oregon, looking right back at her.

Schwartz was born in a time when central heating, indoor plumbing, and electricity were still new developments in home design. The personal computer would not be invented until she was in her 70s. So Skype – Internet software that enables face-to-face video chat, even around the world – was nothing Schwartz could have predicted. But that didn’t mean she wasn’t ready for it. She wasn’t the only one.

By last summer, Skype technology had been installed at the Covina Masonic Home, too. (At the request of pilots in the resident community, staff also installed flight simulation software and airplane controls on that system.) The Skype labs, designed to look and feel like a living room, are booked regularly with the help of IT staff. Resident volunteers offer assistance after-hours and on the weekends. More and more residents are installing the software on their own computers and Skyping from their apartments, communicating with friends and family in the U.S. and abroad. So far, the distance record is Italy.

Michael Forsyth, director of IT – client services, introduced the idea.

“I wanted our residents to reconnect with family and friends, and to take distance out of the equation,” he says. “Hearing on the phone is great but being able to see the expressions on a face is always better.”

# Connecting with Masonic Assistance



## MASONIC SENIOR OUTREACH SERVICES

Masonic Senior Outreach Services, a program of the Masonic Homes of California, provides eligible senior members of our California 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 may include:

- \* Information and referrals to community-based senior providers throughout California
- \* Ongoing care management at no cost
- \* Financial support with demonstrated need

Masonic Senior Outreach Services 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 [intake@mhcuc.org](mailto:intake@mhcuc.org).

## MASONIC FAMILY OUTREACH SERVICES

Masonic Family Outreach Services 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 [intake@mhcuc.org](mailto:intake@mhcuc.org).

## MASONIC CENTER FOR YOUTH AND FAMILIES

The Masonic Center for Youth and Families provides integrated psychological services to youth ages 4 to 17 struggling with behavioral, academic, emotional, or social difficulties. To learn more about MCYAF, visit [mcyaf.org](http://mcyaf.org) or call 877/488-6293.

## ACACIA CREEK

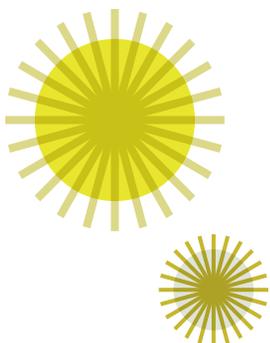
To learn more about Acacia Creek, our new senior living community in Union City, visit [acaciacreek.org](http://acaciacreek.org) or call 877/902-7555.

## STAY INFORMED

You may request a presentation be made at a lodge meeting about the Masonic Homes and Outreach programs by contacting Masonic Assistance at 888/466-3642 or [intake@mhcuc.org](mailto:intake@mhcuc.org).

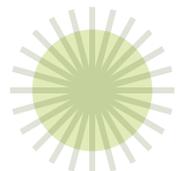
## VISIT THE HOMES

Arrange a private or group tour to get a firsthand look at residential services on our two campuses. Be sure to call ahead (even if on the same day) so we can announce your arrival at the front security gate and make proper tour arrangements. Contact the Home at Union City at 510/471-3434 and the Home at Covina at 626/251-2232.



## MASONIC ASSISTANCE

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