

CALIFORNIA ✧

# FREEMASON

Aug/Sep 2009



## Windows to Our Heritage

*A new beginning for pieces  
of Masonic lodge history*

[freemason.org](http://freemason.org)



## CHOOSE YOUR GIFT



*When you donate to the Annual Fund,  
you decide how your gift will help.*

### YOU CHOOSE:

MASONIC OUTREACH SERVICES (MOS), A PROGRAM  
OF THE MASONIC HOMES OF CALIFORNIA

Help provide a safe environment, prescription drugs, or the companionship of a care manager for our senior members. MOS provides our fraternal family access to the services and resources they need to stay healthy and safe in their home communities.

PUBLIC EDUCATION SUPPORT, A FUND OF THE  
CALIFORNIA MASONIC FOUNDATION (CMF)

Help build a playground at an under-funded school, provide desperately needed classroom resources, or champion an after-school program for at-risk students. Your gift will supplement funds raised by local lodges and CMF in support of public schools.

GIVE ONLINE AT [FREEMASON.ORG](http://FREEMASON.ORG) OR CONTACT DENISE AVILA, MANAGER OF THE ANNUAL FUND,  
AT 415/292-9117 OR [DAVILA@FREEMASON.ORG](mailto:DAVILA@FREEMASON.ORG).

**PUBLICATION BOARD**

Larry L. Adamson, Grand Master  
Allan L. Casalou, Grand Secretary and  
Editor-in-Chief

**EDITORIAL STAFF**

Terry Mendez, Managing Editor  
Angel Alvarez-Mapp, Associate Editor  
Laura Normand, Senior Editor  
Tom Phillips, Art Editor

**PHOTOGRAPHY**

Resolusean Photography  
Jason Forman Photography

**DESIGN**

Phillips Creative

**OFFICERS OF THE GRAND LODGE**

**GRAND MASTER**

Larry L. Adamson, Sunset No. 369

**DEPUTY GRAND MASTER**

Kenneth G. Nagel, Liberty No. 299

**SENIOR GRAND WARDEN**

William J. Bray III, North Hollywood No. 542

**JUNIOR GRAND WARDEN**

Frank Loui, California No. 1

**GRAND TREASURER**

Glenn D. Woody, Huntington Beach No. 380

**GRAND SECRETARY**

Allan L. Casalou, Acalanes Fellowship No. 480

**GRAND LECTURER**

Paul D. Hennig, Three Great Lights No. 651

**freemason.org**

**CALIFORNIA FREEMASON**

(USPS 083-940) is published bimonthly by the Publishing Board and is the only official publication of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of California, 1111 California St., San Francisco, CA 94108-2284.

Publication Office – Publication offices at the Grand Lodge Offices, 1111 California Street, San Francisco, CA 94108-2284. Periodicals Postage Paid at San Francisco, CA and at additional mailing offices.

Postmaster – Send address changes to California Freemason, 1111 California Street, San Francisco, CA 94108-2284.

Publication Dates - Publication dates are the first day of October, December, February, April, June, and August.

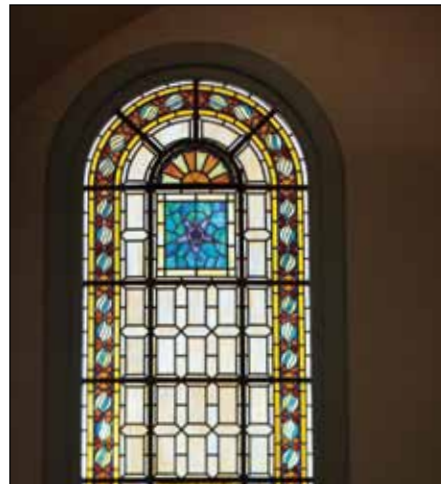
Subscriptions – CALIFORNIA FREEMASON is mailed to every member of this Masonic jurisdiction without additional charge. Others are invited to subscribe for \$2.00 a year or \$2.75 outside of the United States.

Permission to reprint – Permission to reprint original articles in CALIFORNIA FREEMASON is granted to all recognized Masonic publications with credit to the author and this publication.

Phone: 800/831-8170 or  
415/776-7000;  
fax: 415/776-7170;  
e-mail: editor@freemason.org

# Contents

Aug/Sep  
2009



## 12 Feature

### Windows to Our Heritage

Though Courtland Masonic hall is being sold, an important link to California Masonry will be preserved. The building's nine historical stained glass windows, each featuring a Masonic symbol, are being salvaged for installation in a new location – Acacia Creek at Union City.



page 5



page 8

5

**Lodge Spotlight** Throughout the state, lodges have collected rare Masonic treasures. In northernmost California, two lodges make preservation a top priority.

8

**In California** As part of an initiative to preserve and share our Masonic heritage, Grand Lodge completes a major archive renovation and unveils a new Web site.

10

**Masonic Education** Heritage isn't only present in buildings and artifacts. John Cooper explains why ritual is the most enduring example of all for preserving our Masonic heritage.

16

**History** In 1940 the Nazis confiscated Masonic records dating back to the 18th century from France, Belgium, Germany, and the Netherlands. After six decades, they've been returned. Read about some of the preliminary discoveries made by the first scholar invited to review the records.

19

**Masonic Homes** From rare jewelry to 18th-century swords, the Masonic Homes have amassed a surprising variety of artifacts. Take a look at their unofficial collections.



page 10



page 16





# WE LOOK TO OUR PAST TO SECURE OUR FUTURE

LARRY L. ADAMSON,  
GRAND MASTER

"Freemasonry: The world's first and largest fraternal organization." This universally accepted explanation is found scattered throughout reference materials and publications everywhere. But as Masons, do we ever stop to contemplate why?

Why has this fraternity lived and prospered for centuries? Why does it exist today?

What clearly differentiates Freemasonry from other organizations that have attempted to imitate it is a commitment to our heritage – a commitment to understanding our historical beginnings and principles and, with each succeeding generation, to live those values and remember from whence they came.

We in Freemasonry at times struggle to explain what our fraternity is and what it is not. Much of the difficulty stems from the fact that Freemasonry can have a varying significance to each of us. For some, it provides a link to a spiritual inner being, to others it is a sanctuary for social fulfillment, yet for others it inspires intellectual advances and enlightenment. Regardless of the avenue that one travels, the common thread that binds all of us is our understanding of our past – our heritage.

California Freemasons have enjoyed and continue to enjoy an unparalleled commitment by our leadership to understanding our Masonic heritage. From our Institute for Masonic Studies, our renowned Symposiums, and our commitment to Masonic Formation to the work of our respected research lodges, our commitment to truth, understanding, and enlightenment resonates.

Our newly announced partnership for Advancing the Study and Understanding of Freemasonry with the University of California, Los Angeles continues this tradition.

Freemasonry's past is inextricably linked to the societies, governments, and histories of its host countries. Masonic

values, tenets, and ideologies have played a key role in developing constitutional democracies around the world. Preserving our heritage means understanding our past, and this new partnership with UCLA is focused squarely on that goal.

The Grand Master's project, which is California Freemasonry's next major endeavor, focuses on our commitment to understand and preserve the true heritage of our ancient and honorable craft. UCLA's department of history – the largest in the United States – and Dr. Margaret C. Jacob, distinguished professor of history and one of the world's foremost Masonic scholars, play central roles. The partnership's components include:

- Faculty research supported by a Ph.D. student and a postdoctoral fellow
- Two undergraduate courses in the history of Freemasonry and democratic societies, focusing on early European and American influences
- Graduate student studies and work in the history of Freemasonry and civil societies
- Worldwide lecture series on Freemasonry

I believe that the time is upon us to take the lead in defining to the world what Freemasonry is and what it is not! With this partnership, the first of its kind in America, California Freemasonry is leading the way to better understanding our past. Preserving our heritage is essential for the world to understand Freemasonry's relevance and to help us to build a greater tomorrow and a more perfect society.

Shortly, I will write directly to each of you and ask for your support of this effort. I hope you will join with me in endowing this partnership in perpetuity.

Preserving our heritage is ensuring our future. ✨

In the aftermath of San Francisco's 1906 earthquake and fire, the Grand Lodge of California built a vault at Western Star Lodge to safeguard its artifacts.

by Richard Berman

# HISTORY YOU CAN HOLD

## LODGES MAKE THEIR PAST A PRIORITY

Preserving Masonic heritage requires time, resources, and diligence. Two California lodges put in the effort – and connect with their history along the way.

### WESTERN STAR LODGE: THE ORIGINAL ARCHIVES

When the San Francisco earthquake struck in 1906, most of the city's buildings, including the Grand Lodge, were destroyed, and many irreplaceable items were lost forever. To prevent it from happening again, the Grand Lodge allocated funds in 1920 to create two secure, walk-in vaults in

Western Star Lodge No. 2, located in Shasta.

"For the last 90 years we have made preservation an integral part of our lodge," says Secretary E. Darryl Knak. "We have Masonic items from before California became a state, including some from the Gold Rush days."

Western Star Lodge, one of California's oldest chartered

lodges, has a wide range of items: aprons and jewels predating the Grand Lodge, "curios and oddities" such as old cups and saucers from the Order of the Eastern Star and miners' tools from the Gold Rush; hardbound copies of all proceedings dating back to the 19th century; aprons worn by local York Rite brothers and past grand masters; and photographs of Western Star Lodge officers.

As might be expected, Western Star Lodge has developed a degree of expertise in archiving.



**California Lodge's original charter from the District of Columbia**

## Race FOR First

Archival documents are behind one of Masonry's liveliest debates in California: Which came first, No. 1 or No. 2? California Lodge No. 1 in San Francisco has the official title of first lodge chartered in California, but Western Star Lodge No. 2 in Shasta counters that they arrived first.

California Lodge's claim rests on its 1850 California charter, designating it as the first lodge in the jurisdiction. According to proceedings of the first semi-annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of California, ranking was based on lodges' dates of organization in California.

While most of California Lodge's archives were destroyed in the San Francisco earthquake and fire of 1906, a diary



**Western Star Lodge's original charter from Missouri**

including several entries of lodge activities from 1848 supposedly survived and now resides in a research institution in California. As with many Masonic mysteries, its exact whereabouts are unconfirmed.

But Western Star Lodge has its own case, beginning with its original May 1848 charter from the Grand Lodge of Missouri. The lodge's first master, Reverend Saschel Woods, brought the charter to California and organized Western Star Lodge in Benton City — before California Lodge organized, according to Secretary E. Darryl Knak.

"We've had preservationists come in to advise us on taking care of our items," says Knak. Visitors to the lodge are welcome to view the collection, but he notes, "We don't let folks touch the papers with their bare hands, because the acid can actually damage the paper."

Unfortunately, the lodge's charter document has already experienced the effects of aging — reinforcement for careful preservation standards.

"We're taking steps to keep our paper records in as good a shape as possible for future generations," Knak says. "Preserving Masonic heritage is important not only for Masons, but for anyone interested in the history of California."

### HUMBOLDT LODGE: NEW PUSH FOR PRESERVATION

When it comes to archiving, not all lodges in California have had the same kind of resources and historic precedent as Western Star Lodge. For Humboldt Lodge No. 79 in Eureka, chartered in 1855, it is just in the last two years that cataloguing and archiving Masonic treasures has become a priority.

When the York Rite moved out of the lodge building in 2007, the vacated space sparked plans for a library.

"We put in shelving and created a library that allowed us to display items for the first time, rather than just keeping them in storage," says Secretary Bill Lambo.

The library now contains hundreds of Masonic books and continues to grow. The lodge

decided to take it a step further, and Lambo and a team of Entered Apprentices and Fellow Crafts are currently constructing an archive room for member records and documents dating back to the lodge's earliest days.

**"The museum literally lets brothers hold history in their hands."**

Most of the items in the archive have not yet been catalogued, a step that Lambo says will be a labor of love.

"It takes a lot of time and effort to go through the items, and also to understand what they represent and how we should preserve them," Lambo says. "At the same time, we are learning more about the history of our lodge and the Masons before us."

During the cataloguing process, the brothers of Humboldt Lodge found some true gems, including the lodge's original charter, a sword, and even a painting of the first master.

For Humboldt Lodge, these Masonic treasures are more than simply a collection — they are a tangible connection to their heritage.

"The library contains books that help members gain a greater understanding of our history and our role in the world," Lambo says. "The museum literally lets brothers hold history in their hands." ♦





Humboldt Lodge members built their own Masonic library, and are now constructing an archive room.

## *More Masonic Treasures*

**Live Oak Lodge No. 61** in Oakland has a Masonic apron worn by the Marquis de Lafayette in 1825. Secretary Byron Flanders says that the apron was donated along with a handwritten note containing details of its history.

"The apron was worn at the laying of the cornerstone for the De Kalb memorial in South Carolina, on Lafayette's last visit to the United States," Flanders says. "It passed through several Masonic families before finding its way to Live Oak Lodge."

In Sacramento, **Tehama Lodge No. 3** has the Bible used for the formation of the Grand Lodge of California.

"Back in the Gold Rush days, a Mason traveling to California [through Nevada's Humboldt desert] found a pioneer Bible on the side of the road," says Secretary Taylor Rudkin. "He arrived in Sacramento and the Bible was used to form our lodge, as well as the Grand Lodge. It has been used by several grand masters, and our lodge still uses it whenever a Master Mason is raised."

Apron worn by the Marquis de Lafayette,  
now at Live Oak Lodge



Once a disorderly system of metal shelves and card catalogues, the Grand Lodge archive room was renovated to include new storage and a digital collection.

by Richard Berman

# THE HERITAGE PROJECT

*After a massive archive renovation at Grand Lodge, everything old is new again*

## UNCOVERING OUR ROOTS

Artifacts serve as bridges to the past, reaffirming our principles and our modern identity. This is especially true for Freemasonry, an organization that derives its values and practices from long-past generations. In an effort to preserve that Masonic heritage in California, the Grand Lodge recently completed a multi-year project to improve our archive room, expand the museum, and make thousands of the craft's treasures available for viewing online (see sidebar).

The Grand Lodge has always maintained Masonic records and

artifacts, but the archive room basically served as storage space, not a display area. The Henry W. Coil Library & Museum of Freemasonry provided a display venue when it moved to the second floor of the California Masonic Memorial Temple in 2004, but only for select items. In the meantime, the archive room – and the thousands of books and artifacts it contained – remained underused.

James Banta, director of program development at Grand Lodge, spent 13 years teaching history in Fresno before joining Grand Lodge's administrative

team. Fittingly, he walked straight into the history of the fraternity.

"Everything was on metal shelves in an unpainted cement room in the basement. There was no space for people to work, and most of the items were catalogued in card files," Banta recalls. "We had everything from old Masonic uniforms to gavels to important historical documents, but it wasn't organized at all."

## THE RENOVATION BEGINS

Past Grand Master Mel Stein, 2006-7, initiated a major renovation to upgrade the Grand Lodge's ability to store and display



Masonic items. His Grand Master's project, the Heritage Fund, raised several hundred thousand dollars to do it, including a generous gift from the California Scottish Rite Foundation.

The renovation began in early 2008. Outside contractors gutted the archive room, removing metal shelves and installing new, collapsible shelving.

So far, the upgrade has required well over 500 man-hours to inventory and organize collection items. With the help of an outside collections management professional, Adam Kendall, Grand Lodge collections manager, is leading the re-cataloguing of the entire archive and an ongoing project to digitize the collection.

Almost two years later, the new collapsible shelving has more than doubled the amount of available storage space. The archive room now has flat files for photographs, prints, and newspapers, and items previously buried underneath stacks of boxes have been re-housed so they are easily accessible. The room also offers work tables for researchers to review items, creating a new role for the archive room – as a

research facility.

"This is a major effort by the Grand Lodge of California to honor our past," says Kendall. "It's an example for all grand lodges."

## TELLING OUR STORY

Besides doing a better job of storing items for the enjoyment of future generations, the renovation opened the door for Grand Lodge to better utilize the collection in the present – through the Henry W. Coil Library & Museum.

Kendall now chooses from a wider selection for library and museum exhibits. He notes that many of the items are integral to the story of the craft.

"The gifts, regalia, and other items are part of our material culture, and in many ways they represent how we express ourselves," Kendall says.

Drawing straight from the archives, the Henry W. Coil Library & Museum holds thousands of books related to Freemasonry, uniforms and other ritual items used by lodges that no longer exist, and proceedings and membership lists that date back to the earliest days of the Grand Lodge of California.

It also houses a range of aprons, gavel – including one made from wood taken from Sutter's Mill – jewels, swords, scabbards, Bibles, and other items linked to Freemasonry.

"We have a letter from President Truman presenting us with a piece of the cornerstone of the White House," Kendall says. "This still sends a powerful message to all of us, nearly 60 years later."

Grand Lodge is focused on educating the public about California Masonry through new exhibits at the museum. To reach visitors the world over, exhibits are also online at [masonicheritage.org](http://masonicheritage.org), the new Web site of the Henry W. Coil Library & Museum (see sidebar). The current exhibit, "Builders of Dreams: The California Masonic Experience 1850-Present," explores Masonry's role in the development of California.

"We use items from our archives and library to tell our story," says Kendall. "Through them, we share some of the important contributions that Masons have made in California and around the world." ✦



## masonicheritage.org launches

By creating a virtual space for the Henry W. Coil Library & Museum of Freemasonry at [masonicheritage.org](http://masonicheritage.org), the fraternity offers both a library and a museum experience to a worldwide audience, enabling anyone interested in Freemasonry to access our collections and share in our past and present.

Visitors to [masonicheritage.org](http://masonicheritage.org) can view the catalogue listings of more than 2,000 books from the library, as well as images of objects ranging from officers' jewels to tools to gifts received by grand masters over the years. One example is a Scottish Rite Grand Cross cap that belonged to Frank S. Land, founder of DeMolay International. (Keyword search: Frank S. Land)



by John L. Cooper III, Past Grand Secretary

# Past

**T**his issue of California Freemason shows that we have a lot of Masonic heritage worth preserving – much more than one might realize in an era when lodges frequently sell off historic buildings to seek new homes or consolidate. It is perhaps easy to forget that Freemasonry has been preserving its heritage in other ways, for longer than any of our buildings have stood – through ritual.

The ritual of Freemasonry is filled with allusions to the past. In the first degree, the Entered Apprentice is told that he should “Be faithful to the trust committed to your care, and manifest your fidelity to your principles... by adhering to the Ancient Landmarks thereof.”

As a Fellow Craft, he is admonished to “preserve the ancient usages and customs of the Fraternity sacred and inviolate; and thus, by your example, induce others also to

hold them in due veneration.”

As a Master Mason, he is reminded once more of the importance of preserving this heritage: “Our Ancient Landmarks you are carefully to preserve, and never to suffer them, on any pretense, to be infringed; and you are never to countenance any deviation from our established customs.” By this time, the new Master Mason should be very much aware of the importance

# Perfect

Freemasonry attaches to preserving our heritage – at least, the heritage of our core teachings, expressed through ritual.

And yet, the words and customs used to demonstrate core teachings have changed over the years. What was once a simple ceremony of admission in the 17th century has evolved into a ritual of three degrees, accompanied by lectures which we know were written at a much later date than the degrees themselves. Masons once met in inns and taverns, using makeshift lodge rooms with minimal furnishings and visible expressions of Masonic symbols. So temporary were the visuals used with the degrees that they were often marked in chalk, charcoal, and clay on the floor of the meeting room and washed out afterward with a bucket and mop.

Nor have we uniformly preserved other customs, which our Masonic ancestors once thought all-important.

Masons in the 18th century wore white gloves in lodge, and attached such importance to the custom that they presented a new Entered Apprentice with his own pair to wear in the lodge and a second pair to give to his lady, a reminder that his life had changed by becoming a Mason. Although some earnestly seek to revive it, that old custom has become obsolete in California.

If this kind of change has occurred, then our commitment to preserving our heritage must be of a different nature. It is. The kind of heritage that has never become obsolete, and never will, is found in the “charges” – those brief summaries of Masonic teaching, which are the culmination of each degree.

- “As a Mason, you are to regard the volume of the Sacred Law as the great light in your profession . . . . In it, you will learn the important duties which you owe to God, your neighbor, and yourself.”
- “It is unnecessary to recapitulate the duties which, as a Fellow Craft, you are bound to discharge. Your

general good reputation affords satisfactory assurance that you will not suffer any consideration to induce you to act in a manner unworthy of the respectable character which you now sustain.”

- “Your honor and reputation are concerned in supporting with dignity the respectable character which you now bear. Let no motive, therefore, make you swerve from your duty, violate your vows or betray your trust. . . .”

In other words, the heritage that we, as Masons, are expected to preserve is much more than bricks and mortar. It is even more than old lodge customs, no matter how valuable those may be. The most important heritage that Masons are expected to preserve is that which neither “moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves [neither] break through and steal” (Matt. 6:19, New American Standard Bible).

Our real heritage is in the mysteries of Masonry – those mysteries “safely lodged in the repository of faithful breasts.” We will go on preserving that heritage for as long as time will last. ✧



# Windows to Our Heritage

*A new beginning for  
pieces of Masonic  
lodge history*





by Cason Lane

There's an old saying that the eyes are the windows to the soul. And some say the windows, in turn, are the eyes to the soul of a house.

Well, that's a fitting phrase for the Courtland Masonic hall, where nine magnificent stained glass windows, each custom-designed with Masonic symbols, long celebrated the craft of the hall's inhabitants – the members of Franklin Lodge No. 143.

For more than 80 years, the stained glass windows captured the sunlight and glowed from within, dazzling both passersby on the outside and Masonic families on the inside.

"We've had numerous daytime activities with Eastern Star and the lodge, and those windows have been just spectacular," says Richard Brewer Sr., past master of Franklin Lodge. "Everyone says how deeply they appreciate the beauty of these stained glass windows when they enter the lodge."

Franklin Lodge consolidated last year with Scepter Lodge No. 808 to form Scepter Lodge No. 143 in Sacramento, so the Courtland Masonic hall is now vacant and up for sale. But thanks to a special preservation effort in the past few months, the stained glass windows were salvaged from the building and are slated for reinstallation at another – the Acacia Creek Masonic Senior Living Community at Union City.



## A LINK TO THE PAST

The preservation idea was born a couple of years ago, when Grand Master Larry Adamson saw the windows for the first time during an event at the hall. Amazed by their splendor and impressed by their long history, he recalls thinking it would be a shame to lose them. At the time, he was involved in the planning for Acacia Creek, and he thought that might make the perfect new home for the windows.

“I said, We’ve got a great opportunity in this magnificent facility for our seniors from all over California,” Adamson says. “What a great place for the windows.”

“We were excited about the idea of preserving them – especially for something as important as Acacia Creek,” he adds.

But when it comes to removing, replacing, transporting, and reinstalling nine historical stained glass windows, it’s a job easier said than done. There are eight windows in the second-floor lodge room – three on the north wall, three on the south wall, and two in the east – plus a ninth, double-hung window at the northwest corner near the staircase.

The windows date back to 1925, when – according to Brewer’s research into the lodge’s meeting minutes – the lodge paid \$1,600 to install the windows as a dedication to deceased members of Franklin Lodge and Onisbo Chapter No. 164 of Eastern Star.

Each window, about 4.5 feet by 9 feet, is crafted with a Masonic symbol. Some of the symbols

are easily recognizable, such as the square and compass, gavel, square, holy writings, and Eastern Star. Others are combination symbols, including the quadrant and compass (a representation of the past master’s jewel) and the square, compass, and quadrant (a representation of the grand master’s jewel).

As for the remaining two symbols, Grand Lodge authorities say the

designs mix Masonic and Royal Arch symbolism, suggesting that the early Courtland Masonic hall may have had a partnership with a Royal Arch chapter, which was common for Masonic lodges at the time. One symbol is similar to the keystone of the Royal Arch, while the other represents the Knights Templar.

Brewer says that in the late 1980s, the lodge added Lucite coverings to protect the windows



COURTLAND MASONIC HALL: A BRIEF HISTORY

The stained glass windows are almost as old as the Courtland Masonic hall itself – but not quite. Here’s a brief history of the building, based on archived meeting minutes from Franklin Lodge No. 143:

1917	The Franklin Hall Association announces plans to purchase land from the nearby Bates School District for \$500.
1917-22	The association sells stock for a dollar per share, aiming to raise \$30,000. The cost of the building was about \$24,000, not including carpeting, fixtures, and furniture.
1922	Grand Master William A. Sherman lays the cornerstone.
1923	Grand Master Arthur Crites dedicates the building.
1925	The lodge purchases nine stained glass windows for \$1,600.





Light streaming through stained glass windows at Courtland Masonic hall will remain a fond memory for Franklin Lodge members.

from vandalism. But the windows today remain fragile, one-of-a-kind artifacts.

So much so that preservationists sought out a specialty window company to carefully remove each stained glass window and fabricate single-pane wooden windows as replacements, in keeping with the building's other windows. That company, Hall's Window Center of Sacramento, then built a protective crating system to transport the stained glass windows to a secure loading dock in Union City.

Due in part to the windows' age and fragility, the Acacia Creek planners have earmarked the windows for the interior of the facility, as such serving as windows to the past rather than windows to the outside. Each window – to be accompanied by a plaque thanking Franklin Lodge for the donation – will be hung on a wall and backlit to illuminate the stained glass.

Eric Sholty, project manager of Acacia Creek, says the windows will be sprinkled throughout the Acacia Creek lobby, private dining room, bistro, game

room, and elevator lobby.

"We're using these as art pieces instead of actual windows," says Sholty, of Covina Lodge No. 334. "Each window brings Masonic symbolism into the new building. It brings the messages of our craft."

## STAINED GLASS MEMORIES

Meanwhile, members of the former Franklin Lodge cherish their memories of the stained glass windows, which glimmered and shimmered for several generations of Masonic families. Past Master Peter Heringer Jr., for example, recalls the windows as a memorable part of his childhood in the late 1950s.

"My father was master of the lodge and my sisters were in Rainbow Girls, so we spent a lot of time down there looking at the windows and watching the sun shine through them," he says.

Robert James, another member of the former lodge, says the stained glass windows weren't very visible at night, but he remembers one lodge master, Loyal Mealer,

who changed all that. Mealer had such great admiration for the windows that for his evening installation, James recalls, he set up lights on the outside of the Courtland Masonic hall so everyone on the inside could experience the glow of the stained glass.

David Shira, secretary of Scepter Lodge, remembers going to Franklin Lodge's Courtland Masonic hall to help with degree ceremonies and other events.

"It was a lodge that I visited for many, many years," he says. "It was always awe-inspiring to go into the lodge room. A degree was always extra-special because of those windows."

And even though the windows' Courtland days are over, the windows will live on for the residents, families, and visitors at Acacia Creek, providing an important link to Franklin Lodge and the history of Masonry in California.

After all, when one window closes, another one usually opens. ✧

by Laura Normand

# The Moscow Archives

*Recently unearthed Masonic documents rewrite history*

In 2000 a convoy of trucks left Moscow for France, Belgium, Germany, and the Netherlands. They contained the missing account of the first women's Masonic lodge, precursors to the French Revolution, and the entire history of Bordeaux Freemasonry.

## THE RAID

When the Nazis invaded the Low Countries and France in June 1940, they took everything they could carry from the libraries of the grand lodges of the Netherlands, Belgium, and France, as well as Jewish organizations and trade unions. Hitler ordered their storage in Berlin, believing there was a worldwide Jewish-Masonic conspiracy and that the records would contain the smoking gun. When the Russian army advanced, the records were rushed to another location, but were eventually confiscated by the Russians.

After the war's end, the archives moved to a cavernous building on the outskirts of Moscow. With plans to use them as a bargaining chip, the Russian government saw to it that the archives were kept organized, well-preserved – and secret. They remained undiscovered until 1993, when American historian Patricia Grimsted stumbled upon them and unveiled them to the world, beginning a lengthy negotiation for their return.

After six decades, the countries' historical records of Freemasonry – thought bombed, destroyed, or lost during wartime – were returned intact.

## FRENCH CONNECTION

In total, the Moscow archives consumed nearly 37 cubic meters. They traveled back to their respective countries in containers roughly twice the size of shoeboxes, each holding 5,000 to 6,000 oversized folio sheets of handmade 18th- and 19th-century paper.

The cache included lodges' member lists; written correspondence; orations presented during meetings; ritual scripts; and lodge minutes.

The biggest cache belonged to French Freemasonry, dating back to the 1720s. When the archives returned to Paris, the entire history of Bordeaux Freemasonry returned with them.

In 2002, after the immense task of cataloging the collection, the Grand Orient of France invited

Dr. Margaret C. Jacob, one of the world's foremost Masonic scholars and professor of history at the University of California, Los Angeles, to be the first scholar to review the collection.

**"If you read those letters and nothing else, you would not be surprised to find that seven years later, there was a revolution followed by a civil war."**

## WAR, PEACE, AND CIVIL SOCIETY

Jacob spent four weeks culling through the archives at the Grand Orient in Paris. Her research unveiled intriguing documents, including new evidence of the first female Masonic lodge. Up to that

point, scholars had dated the earliest women's lodge at 1751 in The Hague, Holland. Now, one is documented as early as 1746 in Bordeaux, France.

As with the female lodge, the archives paint a bigger picture of Europe's social and political climate in the 18th and 19th centuries.

Member lists include the occupations and ages of men in lodge, which can indicate which social groups were isolated and which formed cliques.

Lodge correspondence, often prompted by disagreements, reveal social tensions.

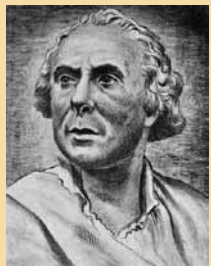
"There are letters from the 1780s recording provincial lodges fighting with the Grand Lodge of Paris, which they regarded as an aristocratic organization," Jacob says. "If you read those letters and nothing else, you would not be surprised to find that seven years later, there was a revolution followed by a civil war."

Jacob is eager to spend more time with the Moscow archives, partly because their story transcends the fraternity, and centuries.

"This has to do with the nature of civil society," Jacob insists. "When people are members of the same guild, it's easy to see why they meet and come together. But why do people of different backgrounds with different interests come together, and what is the significance of that new form of civil society?"

After 60 years in hiding, the Moscow archives may be one key to the answers. ✨

## MORE ARCHIVAL DISCOVERIES



Giacomo Casanova

One archive that's central to Jacob's research catalogues the history of a lodge founded in Amsterdam in the 1740s. The visitors' book shows Masons from Edinburgh, Moscow, and Philadelphia, including Giacomo Casanova and Jean-Paul Marat.

"It's an incredible insight into what mercantile life offered men in terms of knowledge of the rest of the world," Jacob says. "In 1781, when somebody visited from Philadelphia, guess what they talked about that evening?"

Another cache from the Moscow archives contains the entire history of Philalethes, a society in Parisian Masonic society dedicated to finding a universal religion. The Moscow archives show an interesting connection.

"The membership consisted of almost everybody high up in France's fiscal administration," Jacob says. "After the French involvement in the American Revolution, the country was going bankrupt, and they were trying to save it."

Jacob poses the question, "What does it say that these men, who were trying to do the impossible in their daily lives, joined together for this equally impossible cause?"



# A Prestigious Partnership

Grand Lodge and UCLA announce university courses on Freemasonry

Across countries and centuries, Freemasonry has shaped governments and societies. But it's only recently that academic research and coursework have been devoted to the subject.

Thanks to the Grand Master's Project to Advance the Study and Understanding of Freemasonry, spring 2010 marks a major change: the University of California, Los Angeles will offer two classes dedicated to Freemasonry. This is the Grand Lodge of California's first academic partnership with a public university.

## Spring 2010 courses at UCLA

The following courses will be open to all undergraduates:

- History of European fraternalism and Freemasonry
- History of American fraternalism and Freemasonry

Both courses will explore the history of civil society, fraternalism, and Freemasonry beginning with the early 18th century. Materials will also be posted online as an educational resource for the general public.

## About the educators

UCLA is one of the nation's finest institutions of higher learning. The department of history teaches more than 26,000 students per academic year and hosts internationally renowned faculty, including Dr. Margaret C. Jacob, one of the world's foremost Masonic scholars.

The Grand Master's Project is providing funding for Dr. Jacob to develop the coursework with the support of postdoctoral fellow Natalie Bayer, Ph.D. Rice University, and research assistant Matthew Crow, graduate student in American history.

*"It's time we take a major step forward in defining Masonry to the world by supporting research that will sort fact from fiction and establish our true role in history."*

**Larry L. Adamson**

**Grand Master 2008/2009**



Rare Masonic items, donated over the years by residents, are preserved and displayed at the Homes.

by Cason Lane

# Antiques Roadshow? Try Antiques Home Show

*The rare, the ancient,  
and the unusual at the  
Masonic Homes*

From 18<sup>th</sup>-century swords to far-flung fezzes, California Freemasons have amassed quite a collection of Masonic artifacts, often handed down from one generation to the next. And instead of keeping these items tucked away in a drawer or closet, some Masons and their families decide to put their memorabilia on display – as a way to extend a piece of Masonic history to someone else.

For many years, that's exactly what's been happening at the Masonic Homes, as residents have donated their prized Masonic possessions for display throughout the facilities. As a result, both Homes today have veritable troves of historical items, which are managed by resident "curators" who help preserve Masonic heritage.

## ON DISPLAY AT UNION CITY

At the Masonic Home at Union City, for example, resident Todd Leines works with Jennie Lobdell, executive assistant, to receive

donated items and organize them in the collection. While all Masonic memorabilia is important, he's especially proud of the many "hard-to-find" Masonic items that residents have given.

Those rare finds include a Masonic apron that's more than 200 years

*"I have more than 20 display cases all over the Home."*

old, traced back to the American Revolutionary War. In the Home's temple, there are 18<sup>th</sup>-century swords from the Scottish Rite, the Knights Templar, and Eastern Star. And there are other aprons – some worn by former grand masters – that are more than 80 years old.

"People say, 'My grandfather wore that and it looks great – better than it looks in our drawer,'" says Leines, who is a member of Alameda Lodge No. 167 in Fremont and Siminoff Daylight Lodge No. 850 at the Home at Union City.

"I have more than 20 display cases all over the Home," he adds. "I put up items that everybody enjoys seeing – not just the stuff you see all the time."

Leines rattles off some highlights, like two antique light bulbs – one with the Masonic emblem and one with the Shriner emblem – that hail from the Home's original chandelier in the early 1900s. He also cites hard-to-find fezzes; 100-year-old Masonic ritual books from all over the U.S.; and early-1900s badges from the High Twelve organization and the youth order DeMolay International.

"They're really hard to find," Leines says of the DeMolay badges. "But some members say, 'I've got that badge. I'll

donate it to you.' Families love to come back and see it on display."

## THE COVINA COLLECTION

Covina Home resident Jim Nash works with Judy Figueroa, administrator for senior care, to tend to their collection of Masonic artifacts. The most recent addition is a century-old Masonic collar made of pewter.

"I put it in the lodge room, on the back of the piano (which faces the audience)," says Nash, of Covina Lodge No. 334. "I put a master's jewel on it, though it doesn't designate a particular office."

The rest of the collection is housed mostly in glass cases in the Home's library. Nash cites about 12 Shriners' fezzes, eight Masonic Bibles, a 50-year Scottish Rite cap, numerous Masonic aprons, several Hiram Award medallions, a Grand Cross of Color from the Rainbow Girls, and "every kind of pin you could think of" – many donated by resident widows who want to celebrate their husbands' Masonic memorabilia.

Nash says the Home's collection also includes jewelry, aprons, and other artifacts from past grand masters. There's a gavel and sounding block from Past Grand Master and Covina resident Roy Henville; a small replica of a schoolhouse that was presented in 1977 to Past Grand Master Kermit Jacobson; and a large grandfather clock – reaching from floor to ceiling at the library entrance – presented in 1987 by the grand family to Past Grand Master Jack Levitt at the end of his term.

Nash looks forward to new donations for their collection, and recently added a little something of his own. "There's a pen-and-pencil box that was presented to me when I was grand bible bearer last year," he says. ✧







# Expanding Services for Masonic Families

**I**n order to reach more Masonic families, the Children's Program is expanding the Masonic Family Resource Center to better serve our members and their families across the state.

The Children's Program historically has embraced change in order to stay relevant – from 1898, when the Masonic Home for widows and orphans first opened; to 1997, when the fraternity voted to accept children with no Masonic affiliation.

But by 2009 the program served just 15 children in Los Angeles County, only three of whom had a Masonic connection. At the same time, a vast number of our members face new, complex needs that involve the whole family. Masonic families need greater access to support services, and more relevant assistance.

And so the Homes is embracing change once again. August marks a transition out of the children's residential model to an expanded Masonic Family Resource Center, building upon the work started by Past Grand Master Richard W. Hopper and wife Judi in 2008.

The Masonic Family Resource Center stands ready to help members of our fraternal family in distress. Our case management services are broad, flexible, and able to serve families in their own communities. We currently provide support to Masonic families in Northern and Southern California and plan to significantly expand our services and reach. We identify resources for families struggling with today's complex issues, such as the impact of divorce, the stresses of a special needs child, and other significant life challenges.

Alumni of the residential program will continue to receive ongoing care management, along with their families. The Family Resource Center will continue to provide scholarships to eligible alumni and monitor the progress of our scholars as they pursue higher education.

Via targeted research and a recent lodge officer survey, the Homes is investigating how Masonic families have been affected by the economic downturn. The expanded Masonic Family Resource Center will partner with families as they overcome their hardships – together.

If you are in need of support or know of a family in distress, please call **888/466-3642**.

# Connecting With the Homes

## MASONIC OUTREACH SERVICES (MOS)

Masonic Outreach Services (MOS), a program of the Masonic Homes of California, provides 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

MOS 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).

## ACACIA CREEK COMMUNITY

To learn more about the Acacia Creek community, visit [acaciacreek.org](http://acaciacreek.org) or contact:

### Acacia Creek at Union City

**510/429-6479 or 888/553-7555**

[dwiley@acaciacreek.org](mailto:dwiley@acaciacreek.org)

## MASONIC FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER

If you are in need of support or know of a family in distress, contact **888/466-3642**.

## SPEAKERS AVAILABLE

The Masonic Homes has speakers available to come to your lodge to speak about our range of services.

For more information, contact **888/466-3642** or [communications@mhcuc.org](mailto:communications@mhcuc.org).

# BE PART OF HISTORY



**MAY 2-8, 2010**

**\$1,489 (PLUS AIRFARE)\***

Deputy Grand Master Ken Nagel and wife Kathy invite fellow Grand Lodge of California members, families, and friends to join them for a once-in-a-lifetime Masonic experience.

YOUR 7-DAY, 6-NIGHT ADVENTURE INCLUDES

The trip is scheduled to coincide with two historic occasions in our nation's capital:

## CALIFORNIA MONTH AND 100<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE GEORGE WASHINGTON MASONIC NATIONAL MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION

- Centennial celebration of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association
- Special opening of the Grand Lodge of California
- Dedication of the California Masonry exhibit
- The White House, National Mall monuments, and Scottish Rite House of the Temple
- Private ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery
- George Washington's legendary Mount Vernon mansion
- Exclusive group dinner cruise on the Potomac River

Cost includes accommodations at the luxurious new Westin Hotel in Old Town Alexandria, generous meal packages, exclusive use of deluxe motorcoaches to and from attractions, a personalized souvenir of your trip, and more.

**Group size is limited to 200 persons, and will fill quickly.**

For reservations and information, visit [starandcompass.com](http://starandcompass.com)  
or contact Randy Downey at 408/674-8341 or  
[randy@starandcompass.com](mailto:randy@starandcompass.com).

\*PRICE IS PER PERSON, BASED ON DOUBLE OCCUPANCY. SINGLE OCCUPANCY PRICE IS \$2,209. PACKAGE DOES NOT INCLUDE AIRFARE.

AIR ARRANGEMENTS MAY BE MADE BY STAR & COMPASS TRAVEL, OR ON YOUR OWN.





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

PERIODICALS  
POSTAGE

**PAID**

AT SAN FRANCISCO CA  
AND AT ADDITIONAL  
MAILING OFFICES



# 160<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL COMMUNICATION

GRAND LODGE OF  
FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS  
OF CALIFORNIA

**Grand Lodge Opening**  
Friday, 1 p.m.

- Ladies' wine country tour and luncheon
- Grand Master's banquet
- Public ceremonies
- New California Masonry exhibit
- Hotel packages available

**APPLIED  
FREEMASONRY**



**LIVING THE  
VIRTUES TODAY**

**BUILDING FOR A  
BETTER TOMORROW**

**LARRY L. ADAMSON  
GRAND MASTER**

**October 2-4, 2009**  
**San Francisco, California**

Visit **freemason.org** for more information and registration.