

CALIFORNIA 

# FREEMASON

Fall 2008

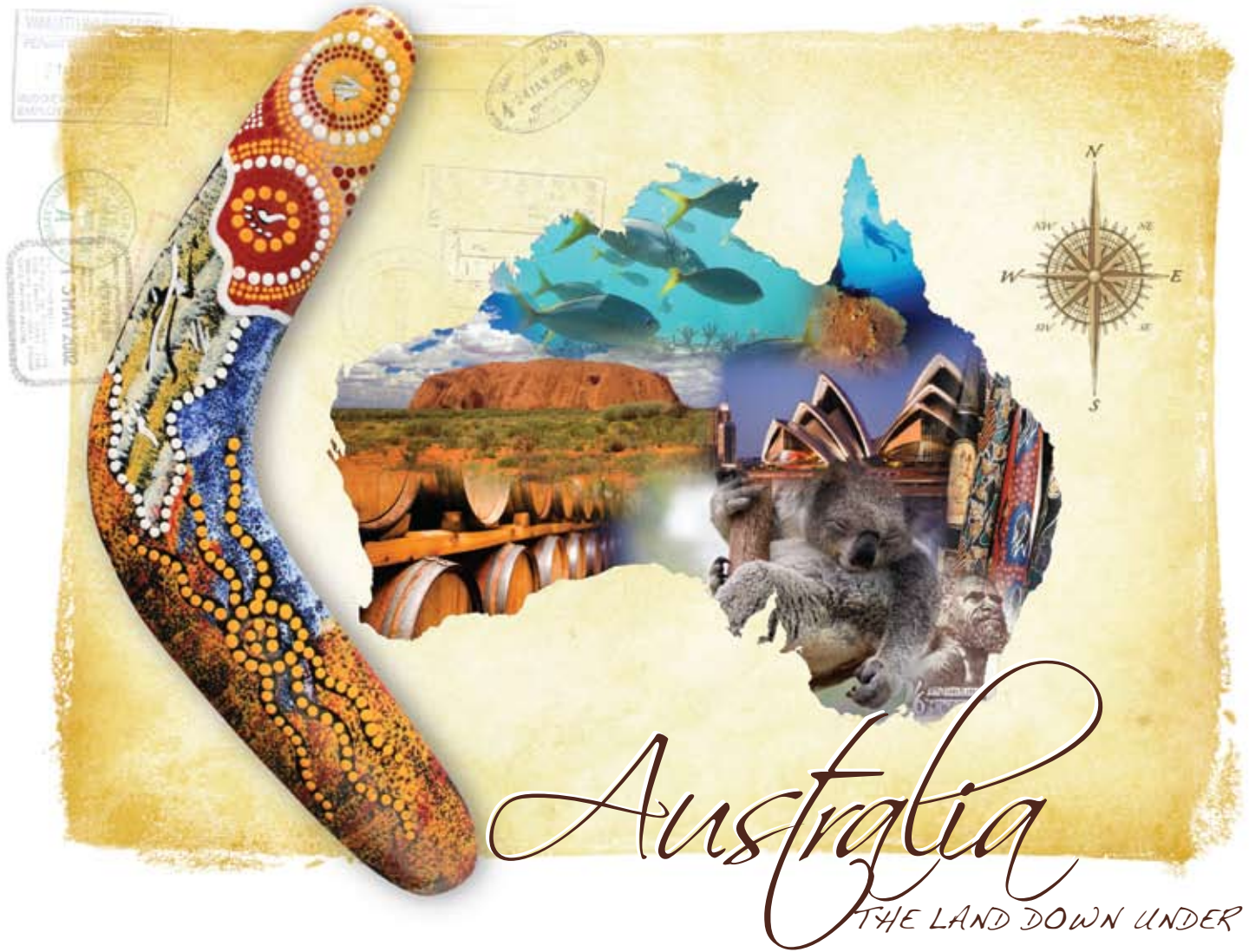
50  
YEARS

ON THE HILL

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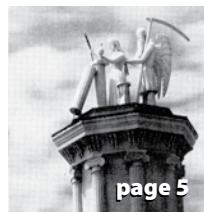
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In September 1958, the California Masonic Memorial Temple on San Francisco's Nob Hill was formally dedicated as headquarters for the Grand Lodge of California. Today, the structure remains an architectural marvel and multipurpose venue that plays an ever-important role in California Masonry and the surrounding community. This year, California Masons celebrate its 50th anniversary.

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**In California** Masonic architectural treasures in the Golden State include just about every style in the book.

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**Masonic Homes** Through the years, the Homes at Union City and Covina have been visible reminders of Masonry's ties to these communities.

# Why we built it

William J. Bray III Junior Grand Warden



**W**hy are old Masonic lodge buildings so common on main streets in America and typically among the largest buildings on the block?

Since the early 1800s, Masonry has represented stability, friendship, and honest business dealings. This is especially true on main streets throughout California. One of Masonry's finest examples of a Masonic building is located on a main street in Hollister. San Benito Lodge No. 211 is considered one of the city's official landmarks. The building has twin clocks that the county and city use as a logo on their stationery. This logo has also been commemorated in stone at the county court house.

Most old Masonic lodge buildings reside on main streets because of their role in the town's initial settling. Early towns were located near water and where work could be found. Merchants, miners, farmers, and many others set

down their roots as a community was built. Many of the early Masonic lodges were situated around shops or the town's largest establishment. They were not easily noticed, and were typically identified by a square and compass, usually found high on the wall of the lodge building. They were some of the first buildings erected and were often large enough to host community events, which in turn generated memberships. Since many of the halls were shared among other groups, such as the Odd Fellows or the Grange Lodges, fellowship often increased even more with new community members.

The prevalence of Masonic buildings is a product of the country's rapid growth in the late 1800s. As the United States grew, so did Masonry. Many of the members were also the founders of the townships, villages, and cities—all of which needed a meeting place. Although some older lodges and

Masonic buildings became run-down or were destroyed by catastrophes or progress during the 1950s, a great number survived. Today, many of those original lodges and buildings continue to be centers of community activity.

While mainstream focus often falls on the style and beauty of Masonic buildings themselves, their significance really lies in the meetings held within. These meetings are intended to help the members better themselves and their communities. Regardless of where the brethren meet, the main goal that Masons seek is to gain knowledge and to promote brotherly love, relief, and truth.

As you travel along the highways and byways of our great state, note the many Masonic lodge buildings that you see on the main streets and be proud of their impact on the local community and our state. ✧





The statuary on the roof of the Mendocino Masonic center, carved from a single redwood log, represents the third degree.

In California—a state whose history has been defined by the waves of newcomers who have migrated here—the diversity of Masonic buildings covers just about every conceivable style, from Spanish Mission to mid-twentieth-century modern to neo-classical.

by Richard Berman

# Masonic

## ARCHITECTURAL

# TREASURES

*in the Golden State*

Back in the early days of Masonry, brothers would often create a lodge regardless of where they happened to be. In essence, the Masons themselves—rather than a particular building—were the lodge, and they met wherever they were able to congregate. Today, however, it would be considered unusual for a group of Masons to conduct official business somewhere other than in their own space, and many lodges have built structures that are not simply functional, but also works of art and beacons to their communities.

It's hardly surprising that a fraternity that traces its lineage back to the stonemasons and builders of the ancient world should have such a strong focus on architecture. Adam Kendall, Collections Manager, Henry Wilson Coil Library & Museum, says that many early Masonic buildings in the United States relied on classical elements. "A lot of Masonic buildings have columns, friezes, and other Greco-Roman themes, but those aren't necessarily Masonic features," Kendall notes. Other buildings—such as the famed Masonic temples in Detroit and Philadelphia—use a style more reminiscent of European Gothic cathedrals.

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In California—a state whose history has been defined by the waves of newcomers who have migrated here—the diversity of Masonic buildings covers just about every conceivable style, from Spanish Mission to mid-twentieth-century modern to neo-classical. And while some of these structures are “showcase” buildings in major cities, there are interesting and inspiring Masonic buildings in smaller cities and towns throughout the state.

One of the true Masonic architectural treasures in California is Mendocino Lodge No. 179, located in the picturesque seaside artists’ colony of Mendocino. According to Officers’ Coach Del Wade, one of the most striking features of the old Masonic hall is the fact that it was built in the Victorian style. “That’s very different from most of the other buildings in this area,” says Wade.

The Stockton Masonic Temple is another of the most striking Masonic buildings in California.

“In addition, the statuary on the roof is carved out of a single redwood log and represents the third degree.”

Although the building has been in constant use by Masons since

its completion in 1866, rising taxes and other costs made it necessary for the lodge to sell the building. In the late 1970s, it was acquired by a local bank with the proviso that the lodge would have access to the second floor for their meetings. “It was very divisive, but the bank did a wonderful restoration of the building and we have been able to use it ever since,” Wade says.

Two hundred miles inland, the Stockton Masonic Temple is another of the most striking Masonic buildings in California. Opened in 1923, the building is actually home to two Masonic lodges, San Joaquin Lodge No. 19 and Morning Star Lodge No. 68, as well as a Prince Hall lodge. John Baker, past master and current secretary of Morning Star, says that “the building has three floors, but it’s actually the height of a five-story building because it has 22-foot ceilings. In addition to three meeting rooms, the center also has a ballroom, library, lounge, billiard room, and two full dining rooms.”

The cornerstone for the building was laid in 1922, and the center opened the following year. “In 1914 the brothers decided they needed a new building,” says Past Master Roger Taylor, who currently serves as treasurer of Morning Star. “It



**The interior of the Mendocino Masonic center reflects the building’s unique Victorian design.**

ended up taking seven years to raise enough money to build it.”

If the building looks somewhat familiar, it may be because the architect, a Mason named Carl Werner, also designed Masonic centers in Oakland, Sacramento, Santa Barbara, Bakersfield, Petaluma, Santa Rosa, and San Jose. Werner, who lived in Alameda, drew up the plans for San Francisco’s original Scottish Rite center and the Masonic clubhouse at UC Berkeley. He also designed several churches, theaters, and apartments that have since been designated as historic landmarks.

While most lodges are lucky to have even one historic building, Sublime Benicia Lodge No. 5 in Benicia has two historically significant lodge buildings. The first was built in 1850 and, according to Past Master Arthur Porter, “is really the equivalent of a one-room schoolhouse.” By the 1880s,





**Stockton Masonic Temple, opened in 1923, houses three meeting rooms, a ballroom, library, lounge, billiard room, two dining rooms - and two California lodges.**

however, the lodge had grown to a point where a new building was needed, and the “new lodge” opened next door in 1887.

Today, the original building is home to a museum that includes artifacts such as the original Bible that was presented to the lodge by Captain Thomas Stanley of the USS Savannah, an altar crafted from 216 individual pieces of wood taken from

seven types of native California trees, and several original oak chairs. The original candlestick holders that came by ship from the East Coast are still in the old hall, as are the lodge’s first jewels—which were made of tin cut from food cans.

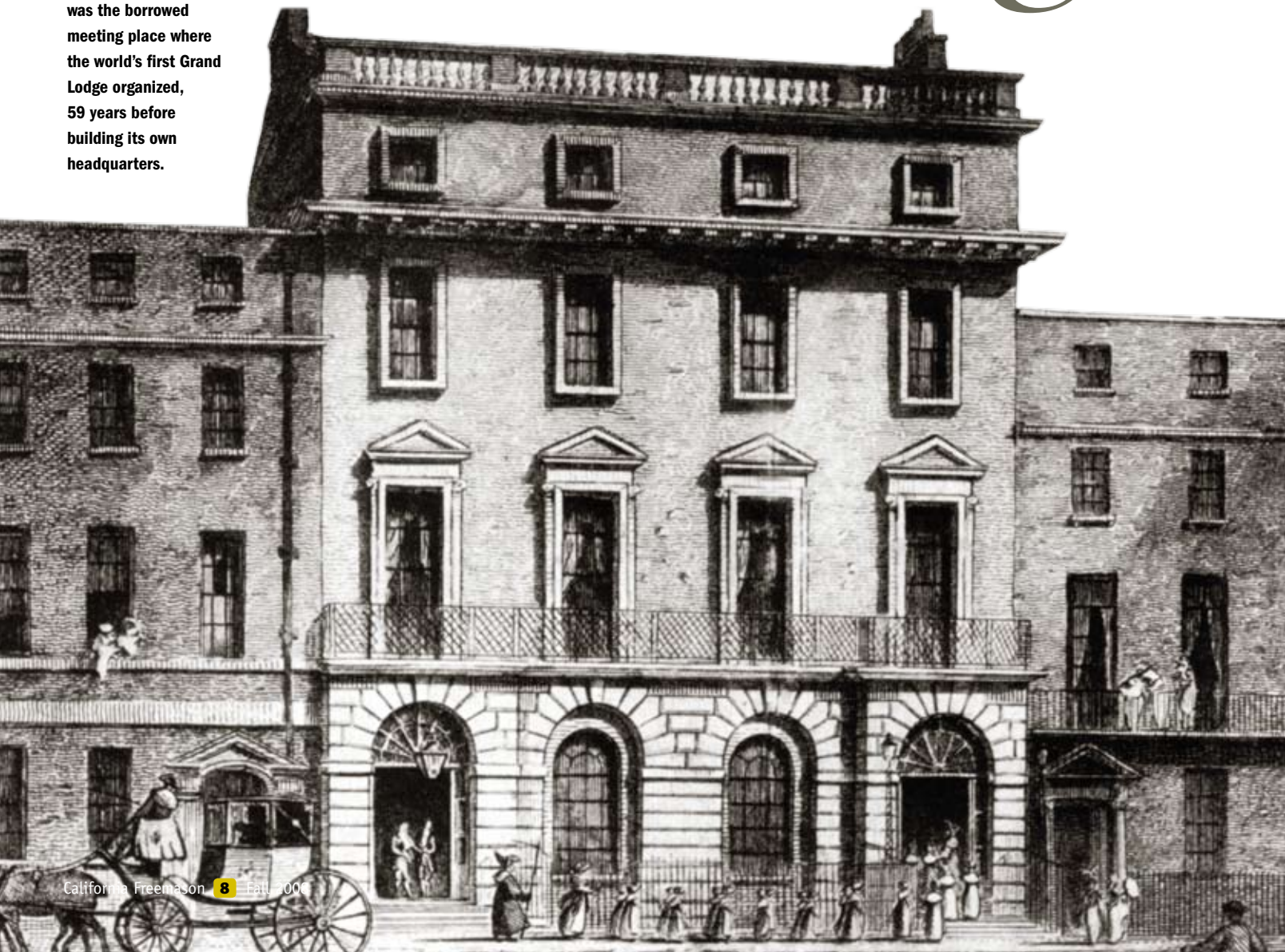
Even though the Sublime Benicia lodge outgrew its original building long ago, the so-called “old lodge” continues to be used by the brothers

for certain functions. “We mainly use it when we confer the third degree,” Porter says. “It really helps us create a connection to our past as we welcome new Master Masons into the lodge. It is a very powerful moment for any Mason, and having a space that goes back to the days of the California gold rush is really a connection with history.” ✧

by John L. Cooper III, Past Grand Secretary

# The Home of the First Grand Lodge

**The Goose and Gridiron  
Tavern in central London  
was the borrowed  
meeting place where  
the world's first Grand  
Lodge organized,  
59 years before  
building its own  
headquarters.**





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**T**he first Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons in the world was organized in London on June 24, 1717, in the Goose and Gridiron Tavern. It was formed by four “time immemorial” lodges—lodges whose origins are lost in the mists of time.

The Goose and Gridiron Tavern was the meeting place of what later became known as the Lodge of Antiquity, and in these borrowed premises the first Grand Lodge was formed. It wasn't until 1776 that Grand Lodge built its first home—at a site which is still the location of the headquarters of the United Grand Lodge of England.

At the Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge in October 1768, a proposal was introduced to raise funds to build a home for Grand Lodge. The funds came primarily from fees paid by newly chartered lodges and fees paid to Grand Lodge for registering new members of the constituent lodges.

Sufficient funds had been raised by November 1774 so that the Committee of Charity—virtually the “governing board” of Grand Lodge—was able to purchase property on Great Queen Street at a cost of £3,150. But in order to fund the enterprise even more quickly, Grand Lodge came up with a new idea in February 1775. Individual Masons were asked to lend £25 to Grand Lodge for the purpose of building the new hall, for which they were granted the right to wear a special medal in recognition. In addition, they were granted the right as individuals

to vote at Grand Lodge. Up to this point, only the masters and wardens were permitted to represent their lodges and to vote. When Grand Lodge was in a position to repay the loan to those subscribing, these special voting rights disappeared.

On May 1, 1775, the foundation stone for the building was laid, and on May 23, 1776, the new building was opened and dedicated

by the Grand Master to “Masonry, Virtue, Universal Charity, and Benevolence.”

Those words have come down to us today as a part of the ceremony performed by Grand Lodge called the “Dedication of Masonic Halls.” As charity and benevolence are synonyms for the same concept, our present-day ceremony has shortened the formula

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*On May 1, 1775, the foundation stone for the building was laid, and on May 23, 1776, the new building was opened and dedicated by the Grand Master to “Masonry, Virtue, Universal Charity, and Benevolence.”*

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used by the Grand Lodge of England in 1776. Today, the grand master dedicates a Masonic hall “... to Freemasonry, Virtue, and Universal Benevolence.”

It is easy to remember the year the first Grand Lodge building was dedicated because it is the date of our own Declaration of Independence. It also reminds us that Masons build spiritual as well as physical buildings. Just as Masonic buildings since 1776 have been dedicated to “Virtue and Universal Benevolence,” so, too, should our spiritual buildings be dedicated. ✧



# BEACON ON THE HILL

by Cason Lane

## California Masonic Memorial Temple marks 50th anniversary

In September 1958 in San Francisco, the Giants were closing out their first baseball season since moving from New York to California, and singer Billie Holiday was finishing up her West Coast tour at the legendary Black Hawk jazz club.

As those chapters were coming to an end, another chapter in San Francisco was just getting started. On Sept. 29 of that year, the California Masons dedicated a new home for Grand Lodge—the California Masonic Memorial Temple on Nob Hill.

Located at 1111 California St., the marble-encased edifice was intended to be, as then-Grand Master Leo E. Anderson put it, a “beacon of light for all Masons.” To hear Masons describe it 50 years later,

*“It’s an expression of the beauty of Masonry.”*

it’s apparent that the building has served that purpose—and more. In the past half-century, the California Masonic Memorial Temple has also become a beacon for the surrounding community, boasting an architectural character that adds a touch of modernity to its Nob Hill neighborhood.

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“It’s an expression of the beauty of Masonry,” says Harold Hand, 91, who attended the 1958 dedication when he was master of South Pasadena Lodge No. 290. “It gives people coming through an entirely different perspective from what you see in the East Coast lodge buildings. It’s a newer age. I do like it.”

Revered in many guidebooks for its formidable presence and unique personality, the structure is located across the street from the neo-Gothic Grace Cathedral, and it couldn’t be starker in contrast. Heralded as an icon of mid-century modernist architecture, the massive building is a testament to simple lines, open spaces, and heavy materials. It serves as both a Masonic building and a public venue, housing the Grand Lodge administrative offices, as well

Heralded as an icon of mid-century modernist architecture, the massive building is a testament to simple lines, open spaces, and heavy materials

as a first-rate auditorium, exhibit hall and other gathering spaces available for rent. There’s also a Masonic library and museum, a five-story parking garage for community use, the famed endomosaic window by artist Emile Norman, and—as the building name would suggest—a war memorial.

## PREVIOUS HOMES

Of course, California Masons got their roots more than 150 years ago. In fact, the 50-year-old Nob Hill building is the fourth official home of the Grand Lodge.

According to records from the building’s Henry Wilson Coil Library and Museum of Freemasonry, the original Grand Lodge was established in 1850—the same year that California became a state—at a building called the Red House in Sacramento. This location served as a meeting place only briefly, followed by a few other temporary, unrecorded locations. The headquarters were moved in 1863 to San Francisco, a burgeoning financial center and a major port.

There, Grand Lodge met at the intersection of Post Street and Montgomery Street until that building—along with much of the city—was devastated in the San Francisco earthquake of 1906. Subsequently, the offices moved a

couple of miles to 25 Van Ness Ave., where they remained until the dedication of the current building on Nob Hill.

## REMEMBERING THE DEDICATION

The building dedication in 1958, part of the 109th Annual Communication, is said to have featured visiting dignitaries including the grand master of the United Grand Lodge of England, who reportedly presented an antique silver and crystal inkstand to be used by grand masters in California.

Those Masons who attended the original dedication remember it as a special event that dedicated a special building. Hand, who at the time was an aspiring organist, attended the dedication with great interest in the organ, the auditorium, and

the Grand Lodge proceedings. He remembers wondering whether he could someday be the grand organist of the Grand Lodge—a dream that came true for him in 1984.

Jack Myrick of Alameda Lodge No. 167 in Fremont was one of several Masons who volunteered to lead public tours of the building on dedication day. What stands out in his memory is the visual effect of the auditorium’s thousands of seats.

“When we were down on the stage and we looked up to the rows and rows of theater seats, they seemed to change colors the higher they went—because of the light,” says Myrick, 82.

## RANDOM ACTS OF FINESSE

The Nob Hill Masonic Center has hosted some of the world’s most famous performers and personalities. Just a few of them:

- Van Morrison
- Oprah Winfrey
- Tony Bennett
- Diana Krall
- Stevie Nicks
- John Edward
- Dr. Wayne Dyer
- Emmylou Harris
- The San Francisco Symphony
- Barbara Walters
- Feist
- Wynton Marsalis
- Herbie Hancock
- Rosemary Clooney
- Lyle Lovett
- Dave Koz
- Alanis Morissette
- Sonny Rollins





The Nob Hill Masonic Center auditorium, pictured here in 1958, has since undergone two renovations but still maintains its original 3,165 seats.

Myrick also remembers that the building was quite controversial due to its hefty price tag, as some thought the 332,411-square-foot marble monolith was excessive. But today, many California Masons assert that it was worth it.

One is Robert Doan, who attended the 1958 dedication as master of Sunset Lodge No. 369 in Santa Monica. “Every time I see it, I find it a very impressive building,” says Doan, 80. “When they built it, it really stood out and said ‘Here is Masonry’ to California and the world. It makes me proud to be a Mason.”

### A REFLECTION OF MASONRY

For Wes Mindermann, past master of Natoma Lodge No. 64 in Folsom, visiting the California Masonic Memorial Temple is a way to celebrate his connection to San Francisco and to Masonry.

“I was born in San Francisco, and my family has been there since the late 1800s, so it’s like going home—and



Then-Senior Grand Warden Harold Anderson, center, and Grand Secretary Edward H. Siems, right, seal the 1956 time capsule within the building’s cornerstone.

going to that structure is also like going home,” says Mindermann, 41. “It’s an awe-inspiring representation of the universality of Masonry in California.”

*“It gives people coming through an entirely different perspective from what you see in the East Coast lodge buildings. It’s a newer age.”*

But the first time he went there, he wondered whether he was in the right place. Despite all its grandeur, the California Masonic Memorial Temple can be deceiving. It’s a huge fortress of white marble, impossible to miss—but without the prominent square and compass, not immediately identifiable.

For Mindermann, it wasn’t until he went up the steps to the colonnaded entrance on California Street, where he saw the two familiar Masonic pillars, that he knew



**Aerial view of Nob Hill, 1957: California Masonic Memorial Temple is under construction opposite the unfinished Grace Cathedral.**

for sure it was a Masonic building. The two white marble pillars, each 23 feet high and weighing more than 14 tons, are symbolic of the pillars in the porch of King Solomon's Temple.

*"It's an awe-inspiring representation of the universality of Masonry in California."*

"It's a beautiful building that doesn't look like a traditional lodge," Mindermann says. "But when you walk up to the porch and you go through the portico and see the two pillars that are familiar to all Masons, then you know you're in the right place. You get that at-home feeling." ✧

## GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

It's been 50 years since the dedication of the California Masonic Memorial Temple. So what better time to rededicate the grand building, to commemorate its many contributions to Masonry and to the surrounding community?

Grand Lodge will do just that in a Golden Anniversary Celebration and special rededication ceremony at 5 p.m. Friday, Sept. 26, at 1111 California St. The contents of the 1956 time capsule will be displayed in the lobby, and a new time capsule for 2008 will be dedicated.



## MULTIPURPOSE MARVEL

The California Masonic Memorial Temple is much more than the administrative offices of Grand Lodge. As both a Masonic building and a community resource, the structure has many unique features and facilities.

### NOB HILL MASONIC CENTER

The building itself is run by the Nob Hill Masonic Center, a separate entity from the Grand Lodge offices. The Center generates additional revenue for Masonic charities by renting out the building's venues for community use. The auditorium, for example, accommodates not only Masonic proceedings but also other events that benefit from its excellent acoustics and intimate setting—where any of the 3,165 seats is a good seat. Throughout the year, one can see performing artists such as Tony Bennett or Stevie



Nicks or, since the venue is a renowned jazz spot, Wynton Marsalis or Herbie Hancock. Lectures, commencement ceremonies, and shareholder meetings are also held in

the venue. And, twice a day on every other Tuesday, the Center hosts the swearing-in en masse of hundreds of new U.S. citizens.

The Nob Hill Masonic Center includes other areas for rent in addition to the auditorium. The 16,500-square-foot exhibition hall beneath the auditorium can host everything from car shows to “Star Trek” conventions. Various organizations also lease the Grand Lobby and the California Room for receptions and parties.

As such, the Nob Hill Masonic Center not only serves as a community resource, it also helps Grand Lodge give back to the community. All revenue over operating costs supports the charitable programs of California Masons.

### HENRY WILSON COIL LIBRARY & MUSEUM OF FREEMASONRY

On the second floor, also called the mezzanine, the Masonic library and museum offer an educational resource for Masons and non-Masons alike. The collection includes

historic records and Masonic artifacts such as jewels, aprons, and ceremonial tools.

### ENDOMOSAIC MURAL



Perhaps the most striking visual element of the California Masonic Memorial Temple is the 38-by-48-foot “endomosaic,” a word coined by Big Sur artist Emile Norman to describe the technique he invented for the project. The picture window in the building's entrance foyer is essentially a Plexiglas sandwich, filled with pieces of glass, fabric, metal, shells, and soil collected by Masons in every California county and Hawaii. Norman assembled all those thousands of bits of stuff to depict the story of Masons' arrival in California and their influence on the state.

### MEMORIAL SCULPTURE

Norman also created the war memorial sculpture crowning the east end of the California Street wall, as the California Masonic Memorial Temple is, after all, a war memorial. The sculpture features four 12-foot-high figures, representing the four branches of the armed forces, along with a frieze of 14 marble figures engaged in a tug of war, representing the global struggle between good and evil. The sculpture



includes the inscription:

“Dedicated to Our Masonic Brethren Who Died in the Cause of Freedom.”

The California Masonic Memorial Temple is also a memorial to something more. Leo E. Anderson, grand master in 1958, described it like this:

“It is a visible emblem of our regard for those brethren of ours who lost their lives in the service of this great country, and for generations will represent to the world the active and dedicated interest of Freemasonry in the ideals and activities of our fraternity and the welfare of our great public school system, our constitution, and our American system of life. These have made America great. Let us ever cherish and protect them.”



# Happy ANNIVERSARY

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## Ohio and Massachusetts Grand Lodges Mark Significant Milestones

One of the most moving ceremonies in Masonry is the presentation of a 50-year or 75-year pin to a brother who has spent decades of his life as a member of the craft. It is a celebration not only of a life well lived, but also a recognition that a major source of Masonry's strength comes from its continuity. It is not just individual Masons that reach important milestones, though – this year marks a major anniversary for two American grand lodges. In Massachusetts and Ohio, the Masons who first convened were leading the formation of a country. Their Grand Lodges' considerable years celebrate the strength of those leaders and their surrounding brotherhood, past and present.

In May, the Grand Lodge of Masons in Massachusetts celebrated its 275th year with a three-day gala celebration in Boston. It's a significant number, even more impressive when considered in its historical context: the Grand Lodge pre-dates the founding of the

United States by more than four decades, and by the time the Grand Lodge of California was formed in 1850, its counterpart in the Bay State had already been in existence for 117 years.

The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts - better known today as the GLMA - has the distinction not only of being the first jurisdiction in the Western hemisphere, but of being the third oldest grand lodge in the world. The organization was formed in 1733 as the Provincial Grand Lodge (also known as St. John's Grand Lodge), but did not take on its present name until 1792 when it merged with the rival Antient Provincial Grand Lodge following the American Revolution.

The edifice, built in 1898, is one of the oldest institutions in downtown Boston. (It was preceded by two Grand Lodge buildings on the same site.) Glass



“Masonry really is about passing knowledge forward, and after Cass left Ohio he went on to become the first grand master in Michigan.”

.....

mosaic panels adorn one side of the building, depicting the search for light and the labor of building. Inside, the Grand Lodge lounge contains glass cases showcasing classic Masonic memorabilia; the banquet hall holds a portrait of Paul Revere and eminent Masons.

As one might expect for a celebration honoring the first Masonic organization in the Americas, the 275th anniversary observance was a grand affair, with more than 1200 Masons and their family members from all over the world in attendance. “[This] is an important year not only for the Grand Lodge, but for Masons around the world,” says Grand Secretary Jeffrey Gardiner. “We were honored to include so many brothers in our celebration.”

If the early history of the Grand Lodge of Masons in Massachusetts is a microcosm of the last decades of the American colonial period, the creation of the Grand Lodge of Ohio mirrors the settling of the interior of the country.

In the 1790s and early 1800s, many veterans of the American Revolution didn't get paid,” says Past Grand Master and current Grand Secretary George Braatz. “Instead, they were given land grants in the Northwest Territory, which included land that became Ohio and five other states. The first Masonic meeting in Ohio actually took place in the 1790s under the auspices of American Union Lodge, which was a traveling military lodge. Keep in mind that this was five years before we became a state.”

American Union Lodge was one of six lodges created in Ohio prior to 1808, all of which were under the auspices of grand lodges in the East. “Ohio was really a wild frontier, and there wasn't the kind of infrastructure that the original colonies had,” Braatz notes. “It wasn't until 1808 that the first six lodges became part of a new Grand Lodge in the state of Ohio.

Unlike Massachusetts, which commemorated its milestone anniversary with a gala celebration in Boston, Ohio's bicentennial is being observed in smaller ceremonies throughout the state. Braatz notes that “Ohio doesn't really have one hub city, so we are hosting local events in each of our 25 districts so that all 522 lodges in the state can participate.” In addition, on July 12 the Grand

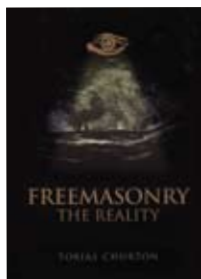
Lodge hosted an event to honor the state's first six lodges, and on Independence Day held a ceremony in Marietta to replace the gravestone of its first grand master, Rufus Putnam, a Revolutionary War general, surveyor and judge who later became one of the founding fathers of Ohio. “There was nothing on the original marker that indicated that he was a Mason, but it is important for us to honor the early Masons in Ohio who helped build what we have today,” Bratz says.

Another of those influential early Masons was General Lewis Cass, who served as Ohio's third grand master. Cass later moved to Michigan, where he was the territorial governor, and he later served as an ambassador, cabinet officer and senator, and was the Democratic nominee for president in 1848. “Masonry really is about passing knowledge forward, and after Cass left Ohio he went on to become the first grand master in Michigan,” relays Braatz. “He truly was a giant in American Masonic history, and we are proud that he played such a vital role in expanding the brotherhood into new parts of the country.” ♦

# Book Reviews

Adam G. Kendall, Collections Manager, Henry Wilson Coil Library & Museum

## Freemasonry: The Reality

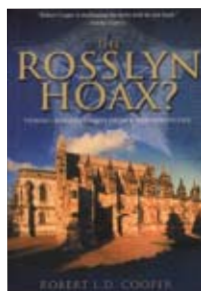


Tobias Churton  
2007, Published by  
Lewis Masonic  
(lewismasonic.com)  
ISBN: 978-0-85318-275-7

"Freemasonry: The Reality" is a fascinating, well-researched overview of the people and philosophies of the post-Renaissance age that led to the formation of Accepted Masonry, or what we now know as Freemasonry.

Author Tobias Churton is an academic authority on Western Mysticism and a notable Masonic historian. He addresses controversial questions, myths and speculation about the history of Freemasonry, aiming to present an accurate and in-depth portrayal of the brotherhood. "Freemasonry: The Reality" is an intriguing, worthwhile exploration of the roots and present state of our craft.

## The Rosslyn Hoax?



The Rosslyn Hoax?  
Robert L.D. Cooper  
2007, Ian Allan Ltd.  
ISBN-10: 0853182817

Robert Cooper, Scottish historian and curator of the Grand Lodge of Scotland, painstakingly dissects the Knights Templar, Masonic, and Rosslyn Chapel myths in "The Rosslyn Hoax?", suggesting the position that Freemasons themselves have been the biggest perpetrators of these theories.

This book is not an easy read with easy answers. Nevertheless, those who endeavor to understand the myth behind the myths will find their read well-rewarded. As custodian of some of Masonry's oldest documents, Cooper has been able to analyze those documents from an insider perspective. By arguing for a re-reading of the symbology within medieval biblical texts, he shows how modern misinterpretation may have fueled the mythology surrounding the brotherhood.



by Laura Normand

# Symbols

of service in the community

## Landmarks in their communities

In San Francisco, the California California Masonic Memorial Temple stands as a symbol of Masonry throughout the state. In Union City and Covina, the Masonic Homes stand as visible reminders of Masonry's service in the community.

In what was then Decoto, Calif. in 1898, Masons and community members gathered for the laying of today's Union City Masonic Home cornerstone.

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A series of columns marks the entrance to the original building of the Masonic Home at Union City.





**The Masonic Home at Covina's mid-century modern design is a creation of noted architect A. Quincy Jones.**

In May of 1916, children cared for by the California Masons attended the cornerstone ceremony for the new Home at Covina. Adult residents joined them in 1989, when residential facilities for seniors were added to the campus.

Today, the Homes are well-established Masonic landmarks in their communities.

Both campuses continue to grow, with upcoming additions of Acacia Creek Continuing Care Retirement Communities at each.

## ICONIC ARCHITECTURE

Within their respective neighborhoods, the Homes' striking architecture and manicured grounds are distinctive symbols of Masonry's presence.

The intergenerational Home at Covina rests on 30 acres of a retired citrus ranch, with century-old eucalyptus marking its presence on Old Badillo Street. Architect A. Quincy Jones, former dean of USC's architecture school and well-known for his projects throughout Southern California, designed the office complex at the Home's north

end when it was redone in the 1960s. Including a long-running collaboration with builder Joseph Eichler and fellow architect Frederick E. Emmons, Jones has produced numerous distinctive designs. Even so, the low-rise Covina building, built in mid-century modern style, is considered by some to be among his most noteworthy architectural achievements.

The Union City Home sits on a sprawling 305 acres of hilltop land. The main building, with stairs leading up to entry-way columns and a soaring brick structure, is reminiscent of Italian Renaissance architecture. As the campus and its number of residents have grown, an additional nine buildings have been added in complementary styles. To residents of Union City and neighboring towns, Masonry's presence has long been identified with "the house on the hill."

#### **SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY, WITH THE COMMUNITY**

The distinctive design of the buildings represents what brought the first founding brothers together: architecture. But the Homes' effect on their communities goes far beyond the visual.

The Homes anchor California Masons in their Union City and Covina communities, making Masonry a visible presence in the neighborhood. Moreover, they connect Masons and their neighbors in common philanthropic work. Since the Homes' initial cornerstone ceremonies, citizens from the surrounding communities have joined in volunteer work at the Union City and Covina Homes.

Last year, Masons and non-Masons alike contributed more than 39,000 volunteer hours at the Union City Home.

"Many of these people have no Masonic affiliation," points out Carlene Voss, Volunteer and Community Resource Coordinator at the Union City Home. Summing up the mixed group

of residents, neighbors, and Masons, she says: "They are community."

Bobbie Rain has been volunteering at Union City for nearly 10 years now, lending her decorative talents to the main building's windows and staircase. She raves about her experience with the Home.

"When I run across Masonic affiliated people... I try to talk them into checking out the facility. Because they're great facilities," she says. "If you spend time in any one of these places, you don't want to leave!"

Joyce Bustinduy got involved six years ago, when she and her daughter were drawn to an ad for the

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"If you spend time in any one of these places, you don't want to leave!"

---

Union City Home's Christmas tree take-down party.

Bustinduy teaches computer classes to residents and helps keep track of volunteer hours. In 2005, in recognition of her contributions, she was awarded "Volunteer of the Year" by her employer. As part of the honor, the Home received \$2500, which was used to purchase touch-screen computers for tracking volunteer hours.

Her experience with the organization has her spreading the word to area citizens who may know the Union City Home as, simply, "that big brick building up on the hill".

"For me, it's an opportunity to talk about the Home and its purpose," Bustinduy says. "How the Masons are out there and they're very giving to the community, and really part of the community network."

Then and now, the buildings at Union City and Covina stand as proof of just that. ✧



# News you can use

## **FRATERNAL SUPPORT SERVICES ▶**

888/466-3642 or [communications@mhcuc.org](mailto:communications@mhcuc.org)

## **MASONIC HOMES WEB SITE ▶**

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

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

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

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

### **Our services include:**

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

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

## **ACACIA CREEK COMMUNITIES ▶**

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

### **Acacia Creek at Covina**

626/646-2962 or 800/801-9958

### **Acacia Creek at Union City**

510/429-6479 or 888/553-7555

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

## **Children's and Family Services ▶**

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

### **Masonic Home for Children**

1650 Old Badillo Street  
Covina, CA 91722

626/251-2227

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

## **SPEAKERS AVAILABLE ▶**

The Masonic Homes has speakers available to come to your lodge or function to speak about the services available through the Homes and other issues related to aging. For more information, please contact the communications office at 888/466-3642 or [communications@mhcuc.org](mailto:communications@mhcuc.org). We look forward to hearing from you!



A photograph of an elderly man, Robert Doan, in a light-colored striped polo shirt and khaki pants, captured in the middle of a golf putt on a green. He is wearing glasses and a watch on his left wrist. The background shows a well-maintained golf course with large rocks and a building with a tiled roof.

Meet Robert Doan  
Retired telephone executive  
Mason since 1950

## *Faces of Masonry*

**R**obert Doan was a witness to California Masonic history in 1958. As master of Sunset Lodge No. 369 in Santa Monica, Doan attended Annual Communication and the dedication of the California Masonic Memorial Temple.

Just 30 years old at the time, Doan had already accumulated nearly a decade's-worth of Masonic memories. Attending the 1958 dedication was yet another meaningful experience.

"It was a very memorable occasion and our lodge thought it was a pretty neat deal," Doan recalls. "We thoroughly enjoyed the beauty of the Temple, and the mosaic window was absolutely gorgeous."

A retired general manager for GTE (now Verizon), Doan enjoys playing golf, relaxing with his wife, Barbara, and reflecting on more than a half-century as a Mason.

"I joined the Masons when I was 21," says Doan, now 80. "I met a lot of people who influenced my life, and it has meant a lot to me."

Doan, in turn, has influenced others, including his own family. Both his sons, Stephen Doan and David Doan, have served as grand master. His father and brother also were Masons.

As he puts it, "Masonry is a way of life."



**Masons of California**

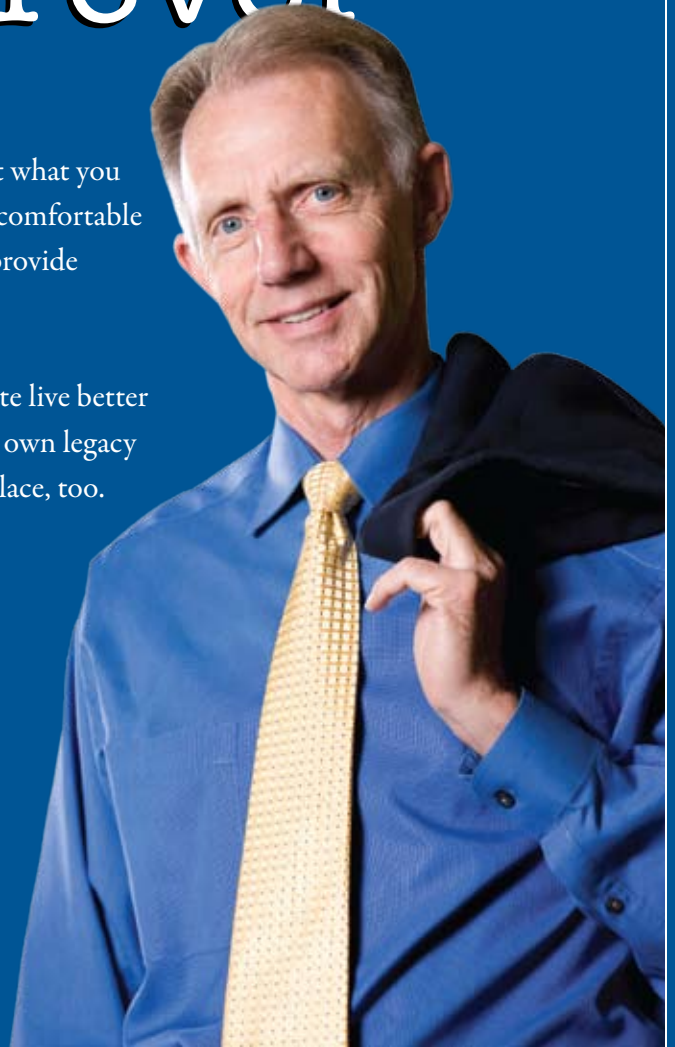
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Gifts from a charitable bequest included in your will support what you value as a Mason. Your bequest could make the future more comfortable for a Masonic widow, enable a student to attend college, or provide leadership training and education to members of our craft.

Countless brothers, widows and children throughout the state live better lives because Masons leave a legacy of care. By planning your own legacy with a charitable bequest, you can make the future a better place, too.

**For more information, visit**

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or call Dick Kellogg, Planned Giving Officer  
at 415/292-9172.



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