
Holland Lodge No. 1 A.F. & A.M.
est. 1835



The Sam Houston Memorial Statue in Houston, Texas

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From the East

Brethren, as this edition of the Alpha goes to press, I wish to express my gratitude to the 2011-2012 Installing Team. I have received many compliments regarding the Holland Lodge's Officer Installation ceremony, I could not agree more. However, credit must be properly placed and I would like to publicly recognize the outstanding job done by the Installing Master - Brother and Past Master Mark Sandler who never missed a beat while performing his duty. He used a mixture of professionalism, knowledge and humor, in his delivery, to make the event very memorable. Likewise, I would like to recognize our Installing Marshal, Brother and Affiliated Past Master Tony Bass, who did double duty as the commander of the fine Ruthven Commandery No. 2 team that honored us with the presentation of the United States Colors. Finally, I wish to recognize the contributions of our Installing Chaplain, Brother and Past Master Jerry B. Jones without whose contribution this laudable undertaking would not have been blessed. Thank you all for the tremendous job you did for Holland Lodge No. 1 and its 2011-2012 slate of officers.

I would also be remiss if I did not mention the outstanding job by our editor, Brother and Junior Deacon Greg Butter. His contribution is not once a month but is ongoing as he continuously devises ways to make the Alpha more professional, more informative, and more enjoyable to the reader. Thank you Brother Butter for making this all possible. For those who thought the sparks of celebration of our 175th anniversary ended at the completion of the 2010 Masonic Year, Brother Butter and Brother Junior Warden Matt Murphy pulled out one more celebratory firecracker by presenting to the Lodge a congratulatory note from President Barack Obama. Well done Brethren!

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From the East

In July, we were pleased to have Brother Wendell Miller as our guest speaker at our Stated Meeting and enjoyed the lively discussion that followed his presentation. Likewise, we were blessed to be a part of Brother Russell W. Leavens' Masonic Service Award night. He received recognition by our District Deputy Grand Master for having achieved his 50th year in Masonry. Congratulations Brother Leavens! Incidentally, Brother Leavens was instrumental in Holland Lodge becoming a Ranger Camp. For more information on Ranger Camps, please access the following link:

[http://www.formertexasrangers.org/jbjmrc.htm#John B. Jones.](http://www.formertexasrangers.org/jbjmrc.htm#John B. Jones)

July also brought much joy to Holland Lodge with the raising of our newest Master Mason, Jonathan L. Marsh, on the occasion of his son's birthday. Congratulations Brother Marsh!

Brethren, we have a lot to look forward to in the coming months. Keep in mind that our August Stated Meeting will bring the second official visit of our District Deputy Grand Master, Right Worshipful Louis Binder, to Holland Lodge. Please plan to attend this important event. Only a glance at the "Announcements from the Worshipful Master" will convince you that there is plenty of work in the quarries for each of us to do. May peace and harmony prevail as we continue to serve our beloved Lodge.

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From the East



Holland Lodge No.1 Installation of Officers 2011-2012
with
Brother Jerry Jones, Brother Mark Sandler and Brother Tony Bass

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Ron Adams, Worshipful Master 2011-2012

From the East



Right Worshipful Louis S. Binder, Brother Russell Leavens, and
Worshipful Master Ron Adams

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Ron Adams, Worshipful Master 2011-2012

From the East

Fraternally,

Ronald E. Adams, Worshipful Master

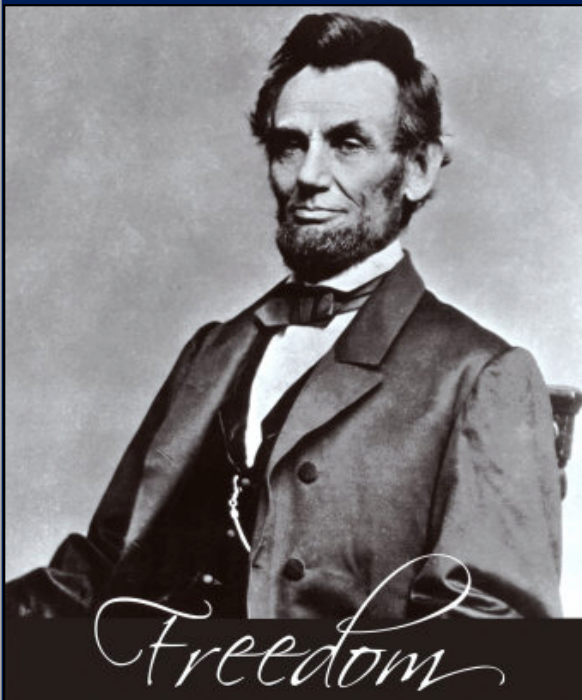


Ron Adams, Worshipful Master 2011-2012

From the South

Abraham Lincoln: A Candidate for Freemasonry

Greetings from the South, brothers of Holland Lodge #1! I am very proud to serve as your Junior Warden this Masonic year. As one of my duties is to superintend during the hours of refreshment, and in mind of the Worshipful Master's slogan "Git'er done! We're having fun!", I ask that all brothers look to increase their participation in lodge functions this year, especially beyond the stated and called meetings. We have an exciting year planned and value the input of all members as to which service and recreation events would best fulfill our goals.



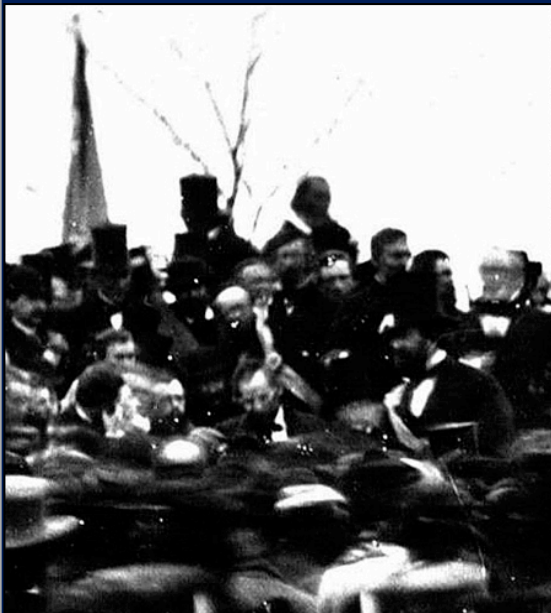
I hope that it is not too ironic that my first communication from the South is dedicated to the Commander in Chief of the North. Abraham Lincoln, the sixteenth president of the United States, was not a Freemason. However, it is believed that his admiration of the Fraternity and other good men he knew to be masons made it his intention to join a lodge prior to his untimely death. In 1860, Mr. Lincoln was called upon by the Grand Lodge of Illinois during recess of an annual meeting. During that meeting, Lincoln told the committee "Gentleman, I have always entertained a profound respect for the Masonic fraternity and have long cherished a desire to become a member."

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From the South

He continued, "I have never petitioned because I have felt my own unworthiness to do so. I might be overcoming my hesitance and be petitioning at the present time but I am a candidate for political office and by some such action might be misconstrued. For this reason, I must for the present time refrain."

A friend who was a Mason informed Lincoln that all of the other political candidates were Freemasons, including Stephen A. Douglas, who was a member of the Masonic lodge in Springfield, Illinois (Lincoln's hometown). "I am not a Freemason, Dr. Morris, though I have great respect for the institution," Lincoln responded. Upon his death in 1865, a friend who was a prominent Mason said Lincoln once told him "I (Lincoln) feared I was too lazy to do all my duty as I should wish to were I a member, and I have kept postponing my application."



Abraham Lincoln just prior to his Gettysburg Address on November 19, 1863.

He applied for the degrees of Freemasonry at Tyrian Lodge #333, Springfield, Ill., shortly after his nomination for the presidency in 1860, but withdrew the application because he felt that his applying for membership at that time might be construed as a political ruse to obtain votes. He advised the lodge that he would resubmit his application again when he returned from the presidency.

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From the South

On Good Friday, April 14, 1865, Lincoln was assassinated at Ford's Theatre by John Wilkes Booth. Upon the death of the president, Tyrian Lodge adopted, on April 17, 1865, a resolution to say "that the decision of President Lincoln to postpone his application for the honors of Freemasonry, lest his motives be misconstrued, is the highest degree honorable to his memory."

Fraternally,
Matthew B. Murphy



Matthew B. Murphy, Junior Warden 2011-2012

From the Secretary

CORD

What cord was used by the Masons during the Middle Ages?

The threefold cord was very much cherished by the Comocine Masters during the middle ages, as well as the Companions of the Royal Arch of today. EC 4: 12 (629)

Fraternally & Sincerely,
Phillip von Stephens



Phillip von Stephens, Secretary 2011-2012

From the Junior Deacon

Fundamentalist Thinking: How Unclear Thinking Impairs Clear Masonic Understanding

Presentation by
Greg Butter

This short presentation will be taken from “The Fundamentalist Mind: How Polarized Thinking Imperils Us All,” by Stephen Larsen, Quest Books 2007. I thought about offering this discussion topic for the Holland Lodge No.1 Masonic Discussion Group several weeks ago. It has been my observation since becoming a Master Mason in 2006 that brethren wrestle, either consciously or unconsciously, with fundamentalist thinking. This is especially apparent when discussing our symbolism and is usually evidenced by the way in which one understands our rituals, stories and symbols. I want to be clear this is not a mean spirited criticism but an observation from one who has wrestled with fundamentalist thinking. My hope is to create an awareness of how one’s thinking affects, even impairs, clear Masonic understanding. The following excerpts from Larsen’s book will set the context from which talking points for tonight’s discussion may be put forth.

I will be drawing from a few chapters only due to the time constraints the discussion group is under. First, The Forward; Second, from the chapter The Phantom Rulers of Humanity; and Last, from the chapter Fragments of the Gods. Larsen states in the Forward, “[m]y understanding of the relationship between [fundamentalism and mythology] ... is that myth is to religion as math is to physics; they are special languages to describe what lies beyond ordinary words. Mythology is made up of timeless metaphors, symbolic stories; it is a kind of picture language of the soul that is not meant to be taken literally or historically.” (page ix) He goes on to state, “[m]yths...because they are overpowering stories that give us a sense of identity, a place in the universe, a moral orientation, and a sense of meaning and purpose. But unchallenged myths lull us into thinking monolithically. The telltale sign of fundamentalism is rigidity...which derives from literalism and intolerance.” (xii) Further, stated, “it is imperative to understand the implications of being intoxicated by one’s own unswerving certitude...[it] tends to [allow one] to revert to fundamentalist thinking in moments of uncertainty, crisis, anxiety, and especially trauma. Fundamentalist thinking raises its ugly head every time we find it impossible to comprehend someone else’s point of view, or whenever we condescend to others as being less informed – or chose – than we are.” (xiii)

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From the Junior Deacon

Finally, he concludes, “we are all susceptible to fundamentalist thinking at one time or another...The dark side of our own personal mythology emerges whenever we feel superior or act sanctimoniously. We see such behavior in the scientist who condescends to religious people, the artist who dismisses athletes, the jock who disdains intellectuals, the psychologist who refutes the different schools of psychology.” (xiv)

The next chapter to be considered, *The Phantom Rulers of Humanity*, Larsen begins with, “Why does humankind relentlessly involve supernatural forces and players in history? It has been so ever since the Iliad, since the Old Testament, since the Bhagavad-Gita. The answer has to do with the story making capacity of the human mind.” (1) Larsen points out a difficulty with this mythic thinking by stating, “When the power of mythic imagery gets tangled up with literalism, we have something called fundamentalism. Fundamentalism takes the luminous and mythic, whose realm is meant to be metaphor and symbol and imprisons it in matter and in history.” (3) He explains this conclusion, in part, by stating, “MIT theorist and psycholinguist Noam Chomsky has demonstrated that there is a faculty in the human mind capable of receiving a “generative grammar” of whatever language a person is exposed to as a little child...The same phenomenon is true of mythic images, or mythogems. Like morphemes, or units of verbal meaning, the mythogem is a unit of mythological meaning.” (4) He goes on to illustrate this, “The idea of the sacred seems to come to us instinctively... we build a frame of reference around symbolic elements presented to us in ritual contexts. These mythogems take on a different order of experience than secular reality. The elaboration of those sacred stories, images, and ideas into a systematic, time honored form creates a religion. In the process, an enormous amount of motivation and emotion are interwoven with the lore of imagery of the religion’s core myth. These crystallized forms accompany most of the world’s population through the stages and trials and tribulations of life in their own emotion-impregnated vernacular.” (5) Larsen concludes this chapter by referencing Joseph Campbell by stating, “Campbell was afraid the world would fall into turbulence if people didn’t understand all religions and myths are based in metaphor, and the working of the metaphor is meant to produce a psychological effect...myth is meant to lead the mind by implication, not by certainty.” (14) Larsen goes on to state, “Religions that cannot see their stories as allegorical destroy the transparency of vision that authentic spiritual consciousness requires.” (14)

The final chapter to be looked at is *Fragments of the Gods*. This title is taken from Larsen’s conversation with Campbell as Campbell stated, “the fragment of the gods are all around us.” Larsen quotes Campbell as stating, “the job of myths is always to be transparent – that is, to point to a metaphysical truth beyond themselves.” (80) Larsen then offers the following, “The gods and goddesses exemplify parts of ourselves; they are parts of archetypal psyche of humanity. Aphrodite can instruct us about love in ways Jehovah cannot offer. Hermes is quicksilver messenger who rules communication,

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From the Junior Deacon

double entendre ... Zeus is an authoritative sky god, like Yahweh, only he gets into mischief with nymphs and often acts like a jerk.” (85) Finally, Larsen concludes with, Mythically speaking, the intent of the Gospel story is to lead us to a figurative dismemberment and death through which we are reborn, or resurrected, in a new way, just as the mature hero returns, renewed and wiser, from his epic journey.” (91)

I hope this brief presentation of this issue has stimulated some questions and will hopefully add to your understanding of how it is important how one thinks regarding how one interprets our symbols.

(This presentation was given at the Holland Lodge No. 1 Masonic Symbolism Discussion Group on July 11, 2011 in the Holland Lodge Library)

Warmly & Fraternally,

Greg



*Holland Lodge No. 1
175th Anniversary Update*

The White House

*I am pleased to send my congratulations to you on your anniversary.
As you celebrate this important milestone, I hope you will look back on what you
have accomplished with joy and pride. I wish you all the best for continued
success and happiness in the future*

sincerely,

Barack Obama

(The original letter is on display at Holland Lodge No. 1)

The above Presidential Recognition was presented to Holland Lodge No. 1 on July 11, 2011
by Matthew Murphy and Greg Butter.

More Pictures from Brother Leaven's Masonic Service Award
"50 Years"



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The Sam Houston Memorial Statue in Herman Park Houston, Texas.
Brother Houston was a charter member of Holland Lodge No. 1.

Announcements

- August 1, 2011 - Masonic Symbolism Discussion - Holland Lodge Library at 7:00 p.m. Brother Jason Santeford will present a talk on “The Five Orders of Architecture,” Master Masons only.
Esoteric Studies for all Freemasons will also be occurring.
Food - Light meal will be served at 6:00 p.m.
- August 3, 2011 - Holland Lodge No. 1 Officer Practice for DDGM Reception Light meal 6:00 p.m. and practice at 7:30 p.m.
Esoteric Studies for all Freemasons will also be occurring.
- August 8, 2011 - Holland Lodge No. 1 Officers Meeting Light meal at 6:00 p.m. and meeting at 7:00 p.m.
Esoteric Studies for all Freemasons will also be occurring.
- August 10, 2011 Stated Meeting - The Reception of Right Worshipful Binder DDGM Masonic District 30-A. The meal will be served at 6:30 p.m. and the stated meeting will begin at 7:30 p.m.
- August 15, 2011 Esoteric Studies - Open to all Freemasons. The light meal begins at 6:00 p.m. and esoteric study begins at 7:00 p.m.
- August 22, 2011 Esoteric Studies - Open to all Freemasons. The light meal begins at 6:00 p.m. and esoteric study begins at 7:00 p.m.
- August 29, 2011 Esoteric Studies - Open to all Freemasons. The light meal begins at 6:00 p.m. and esoteric study begins at 7:00 p.m.

York Rite Masonry

York Rite Festival

August 27, 2011

6 a.m.-9 p.m.

4911 Montrose Boulevard
Houston, Texas 77006

York Rite Masonry

Ruthven Commandery No. 2

6:00 p.m. Meal and 7:00 p.m. Stated Meeting

August 19, 2011

Houston Council No. 1

R&SM

6:00 p.m. Meal and 7:00 Stated Assembly - Red Room

August 8, 2011

Gulf Coast Super Excellent Masters Association

Super Excellent Master Degree Conferral - Only Conferred Once a Year

Date: Saturday October 29, 2011 , Time: 12:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Location: 4911 Montrose Blvd Houston, Texas 77006

- Available to Council of Royal & Select Masters -

Scottish Rite Freemasonry

Houston Scottish Rite Bodies

REUNION

September 23 & 24 2011

August 9, 2011

Called Meeting - Meal at 6:00 p.m. and Called Meeting at 7:00 p.m.



Texas Lodge of Research A.F. & A. M

Texas Lodge of Research is dedicated to Masonic research not only for Texas Freemasonry but also for Freemasonry generally. Please visit their web-page for more information.

www.texaslodgeresearch.org

REMINDER!

The Texas Mason Monthly Magazine Will Be
Available In An Electronic Format Only,
On The Grand Lodge of Texas Web-Page,
Summer
2011

Holland Lodge No. 1
A. F. & A. M.



Houston, Texas



Come Join Us at Holland Lodge No. 1 On the First Monday of Each
Month for the Masonic Discussion Group Held in the
Holland Lodge Library
Master Masons Only.
The Discussion is Moderated by
Brothers Luke Spencer & Colby Lewis.

DeMolay



Notes:

Any member of Holland Lodge No. 1 that requests and submits an article for inclusion in future Alpha's will be considered for publication. Freemasons who are not members of Holland Lodge No. 1 who submit articles may be considered for publication. Deadline for submission is the end of the third week of every month. The first week of each month is the week of publication. One's request and article should be sent to the Worshipful Master at his email address.

If one desires to have the Alpha delivered as a PDF do so by sending the request to the Worshipful Master at his e-mail address. Receiving the Alpha in a PDF format will allow for printing of either the whole Alpha or individual pages. Additionally, one may request to be placed on the Alpha distribution list. Further, back issues of the Alpha are located on the web-page, www.hollandlodge.org

Thank you to Brother Fred Provada of Provada Photography for taking the pictures for the 2011-2012 Holland Lodge No.1 installation. The head shots used in the officers sections were taken by him. Also, thank you to Brittany Lucas of Brittany Lucas Photography for the occasional pictures.

I want to thank Burnett Marketing, the creator of the logo art work for allowing the Alpha to use of the Holland Lodge No. 1 Masonic Logo used in the electronic Alpha publications.



The Alpha is the official publication of Holland Lodge No.1. All articles, letters or commentary reflect personal points of view and are not the official position of Holland Lodge No. 1 or The Grand Lodge of Texas unless explicitly stated as such.

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Holland Lodge No. 1
A. F. & A. M.



Houston, Texas

If you are interested in learning more about Holland Lodge No.1 and the events scheduled please look at the calendar located on the Lodge's web-page, www.hollandlodge.org

Editor Greg Butter, Junior Deacon 2011-2012

HOLLAND LODGE NO. 1
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