

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



The Building of King Solomon's Temple

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From the East

Brethren,

January was a superb month for Holland Lodge # 1. Not only did we accomplish a lot of work at our January Stated Meeting, but we also witnessed the birth of Freedom Lodge when the Grand Master set it to work on January 17th.

The very next day, we were privileged to welcome Most Worshipful Brumit to Holland Lodge on his first official visit as our Grand Master. The evening was a huge success, thanks in large measure to our stewards, Pat Burke and Kevin Gorman, and their biggest supporters, Mauricio Amaya and Raul Lopez. Brethren, your planning and execution was outstanding and demonstrated teamwork at its best. Thanks also to the expert tutelage of Brother Emile Bussemey, who prepared the rest of us for our tasks, and supported Brother Tiler Steve Menn in one of the most hectic jobs of the year, lining up all of our numerous and illustrious visitors. My thanks to you all and to all the brothers who I witnessed accomplishing large and small tasks for no other reason than they had to be done.

The night would have been far from perfect had we not had the able advice, assistance and presence of our own District Deputy Grand Master, Right Worshipful Mark Sandler, representing Masonic District 30-A. With all brethren clicking on all cylinders, we were all able to enjoy the evening to its fullest, living the motto of **“Get er done while having fun”**. Holland Lodge # 1 definitely had its best foot forward and had fun doing it.

True to his word, Grand Master Brumit gave a short but stirring speech, delivering some very sound advice to all Masons as he laid out the foundation of his “Pass it On” program, introduced last month by RW Sandler at his first official visit to Holland Lodge.

Earlier in the week, we received the good news that our ALP application to the MBA program at Rice University had been accepted. This means that a team of Rice MBA students, under the guidance of their faculty, has agreed to develop several financial models for our use, given different contingency scenarios. You may remember from earlier communication that we had made application and the Rice team will soon be at work to provide us useable tools for future financial decision-making. We are thankful to Brother Porter for his concerted effort regarding this project. More information will follow as we get deeper into this project.

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From the East

Rounding out the good news, as this edition of the Alpha goes to press, we are about to confer several Entered Apprentice degrees. Be sure to stay tuned to our website for updates on degrees, proficiency examinations, and other scheduled events at

<http://hollandlodge.org/Calendar.htm>

Projected events for the remainder of this Masonic Year include:

- First Monday of each month. Monthly Masonic Symbolism Discussion Group for Master Masons.
- February 8th Stated Meeting. PGM Elmer Murphy III will grace our presence with a short talk on Masonry.
- March 14th Stated Meeting. Brother Kameron Searle will provide a short history lesson on the impact of Brother Anson Jones on Texas history.
- April 11th Stated Meeting. Brother Weldon Clampitte, Grand Master of DeMolay International and Executive Officer of Texas DeMolay will provide a short talk.
- May 9th Stated Meeting. Come welcome our Past Masters on their night.
- June 13th Stated Meeting. Holland Lodge # 1 Annual Election of Officers.
- June 30th: Installation of the 177th Slate of Officers, Holland Lodge # 1.

As always, you do great work for the fraternity and represent us all well. I thank you all. Let us also remember our sick, infirmed and recovering brothers and their ladies as they face their daily challenges. We do miss you and look forward to seeing you all soon. Finally, let us remember and be thankful for our men and women (and their families) who serve in our Armed Forces, protecting our Country. May God bless your all.

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From the East

Grand Master James F. Brumit's
Official Visit to Holland Lodge
2012



Worshipful Master Ron Adams, Most Worshipful James F. Brumit
and
Senior Warden Barry Podwin

From the East

Fraternally,

Ronald E. Adams, Worshipful Master



Ron Adams, Worshipful Master 2011-2012

From the South

Brethren and friends of Holland Lodge, I bring you fraternal greetings from the South!

After an excellent 2011 filled with events and programs, we are excited about year at hand. We have had a steady influx of worthy and enthusiastic candidates for membership. As always, we encourage all members to be as involved as they would enjoy, from working in degrees, to serving on appointed committees. We are a strong group of brothers and together we build!

With respect to this edition of the Alpha's theme, I would like to provide a brief history of the Ark of the Covenant. The Ark was a wooden vessel, approximately 4 ft. x 2 ft. x 2.5 ft., and perhaps plated with gold leaflet. According to the book of Exodus, it was created as a container to house the Ten Commandments, or God's holy law (Exodus 25:16: "And thou shalt put into the ark the testimony which I shall give thee"). Two rings were attached to each side for the insertion of poles used to transport the Ark. The Israelites carried the Ark with them from Mount Sinai through the desert to the Promised Land. In the famous fall of Jericho, they carried the Ark around the city walls for seven days at which time the priests trumpeted their ram horns, the walls fell, and the city was overtaken (Joshua 6:4-20).



The Israelites carry the Ark of the Covenant around the city walls of Jericho.

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From the South

After this victory, the Ark and the entire Tabernacle were set up in Shiloh (Joshua 18) during the Priesthood of Eli. The Ark was utilized by the Israelites in several military battles throughout Canaan, until they were defeated and the Ark was captured by the Philistines. The Philistines proudly carried it with them for nearly seven months, until they were plagued by boils, hemorrhoids, and rats (1 Samuel 5:1-12). They returned the Ark to the Israelites with offerings of sacrifice.

During the era of Saul, the Israelites began to disregard the Ark for its power and guidance, strayed from the Commandments, and suffered. However, upon the death of Saul, David was anointed King of Judah and ordered that the Ark be carried to Zion. Although he planned to construct a temple to permanently house the Ark and gathered materials to do so, it did not reach fruition until his son, Solomon, son of Bathsheba, inherited his father's throne. Within the inner sanctum, or the "Holy of Holies," of the new temple the Ark was housed. The Most Holy Place was elevated approximately 10 cubits above the floor of the temple, and was cubical in dimension (20x20x20 cubits). After the Ark was delivered to the Holy of Holies, the Temple was filled with a cloud, "for the glory of the Lord had filled the house of the Lord" (1 Kings 8:10-11; 2 Chronicles 5:13, 14). The Ark was accessed only once per year, on Yom Kippur, when the High Priest would pray before it and ask for forgiveness on behalf of the nation of Israel.

There it rested for nearly 300 years, until Nebuchadnezzar and the Babylonians conquered Jerusalem in 586 BC and destroyed the temple. No official record of the Ark exists after this event, although the Book of Ezra in Greek states that the Ark, with many other treasures, were taken back to Babylon. According to the second Book of Maccabees, Jeremiah was warned by God of the Babylonian approach and hid the Ark in a hole beneath the temple or in a cave on Mount Nebo. Another well-known theory is that Menelik, son of King Solomon and the Queen of Sheba, brought the Ark down to Ethiopia where it has been secured for centuries at the Church of Our Lady Mary of Zion in Axum. Some believe the Knights Templar, after retaking the temple, discovered the Ark and took it to Europe, while others think it may have been destroyed along with the temple.



King Solomon and his followers carry the ark into the temple.

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From the South

In recent times, archaeologist Leen Ritmeyer explored the Temple Mount and Dome of the Rock and discovered the at the location of the Holy of Holies a section of empty bedrock matching the dimensions of the Ark. He believes that is could have been removed subsequently (by the Knights Templar?) or may still be buried deeper below. Due to the political climate, an excavation beneath the Temple Mount is unlikely and the fate of Ark and its contents may remain a mystery.



The Church of Our Lady Mary of Zion is the alleged resting place for the Ark after it was brought from Israel by king Menelik I.

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From the South

Fraternal regards and well wishes,
Matthew B. Murphy



Matthew B. Murphy, Junior Warden 2011-2012

From the Secretary

Holland Lodge Spring Picnic 2012

Holland Lodge No. 1 will sponsor with W:M: Ronald E. Adams good graces a picnic on Saturday April 21, 2012 at San Jacinto Battleground in the Adams section of the park a marvelous picnic. Your Senior Stewart is asking for a head count beginning now so he can be ready to make the proper food purchases. He would also accept any donations of a covered dishes that the members might like to provide. Arrangements have been made with the Park Officials to provide dash plaques to indicate you are a member of HL-1 Picnic on that day. That will allow the park rangers to let you through to our picnic area with no hassle.

More information will be supplied in March for your convenience. Plan today to join us for a wonderful celebration of Texas Independence's. Shindig will get under way at 10:00 A.M. Come early and stay late.

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From the Secretary

Fraternally & Sincerely,
Phillip von Stephens



Phillip von Stephens, Secretary 2011-2012

From the Junior Deacon

De Rerum Natura

Book IV, 324-522

Bright objects...the eyes avoid and try not to see. The sun actually blinds if you persist in staring against it, because its own power is great, and from on high through the pure air the images come heavily rushing, and strike the eyes so as to disturb their structure. Besides, whatever brightness is fierce often burns the eyes, because it contains many seeds of fire which cause pain to the eyes by penetrating.

Moreover, jaundice persons see everything a greenish-yellow, because many seeds of this greenish-yellow colour stream out from their bodies to meet the images of things, and besides many are mingled in their own eyes which by their contact paint everything with lurid hues.

Again we see out of the dark what is in the light, because, when the black air of darkness, being nearer, has entered our open eyes first and possessed them, there follows immediately a bright clear air, which as it purges them and beats abroad the black shades of the first air; for this bright air is far more mobile and made of far more minute elements and more powerful. As soon as this has filled up again the channels of the eyes with light, and opened them out after being beset by the black air, at once those images of things follow that are in the light, and provoke us to see. But contrariwise we cannot see out of the light what is in the darkness, for this reason, because a grosser air of the darkness follows second, which fills all pores and besets the passage of the eyes, that no images of anything when thrown upon them may move them.

And when afar off we see the foursquare towers of a city, they appear to be round, for this reason, because every angle at a distance is seen blunter or rather it is not seen at all, its blow is lost and the stroke does not glide across to our eyes; because, while the images are rushing through a great space of air, the air with frequent buffetings forces it to become blunt.

By this means when every angle at once has escaped our vision, the stone structures appear as though rounded on a lathe; not, however, like things that are close before us and really round, but they appear somewhat similar in a shadowy fashion.

Our own shadow also appears to move in the sun, and to follow our footsteps, imitating our gestures (if you can imagine air without light able to march along, following the movements and gestures of men; for that which we are accustomed to call shadow can be nothing else but air without light);

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From the Junior Deacon

doubtless because the earth in certain spots one after another is deprived of the sun's light wherever we in our course obstruct it, and what part of it we have left is filled up again, which causes it to seem that what was the shadow of our body remains the same and follows always opposite to us. For there are always new rays of light pouring out, and the first disappear like wool drawn into a flame. Thus the ground is easily robbed of its light, and again filled up as it washes off the black shadows.

However, we do not grant that the eyes are deceived in this one jot. For it is their task to see in what place light is, and where shadow; but whether it be the same light or not, whether the same shadow that was here now pass thither, or whether that happen rather which I aid before, this nothing must decide but the mind's reasoning power, and eyes cannot recognize the nature of things. Then do not impute to the eyes this fault of the mind.

A ship in which we sail moves on while it seems to stand still, one which remains in its place is thought to pass by; and the hills and plains, which we row by or sail by, seem to be flying astern.

The stars all seem to be fixed and stationary in the vaults of ether, yet all are in constant motion, since they rise and return to their far distant settings when they have traversed the sky with bright body. And the sun and moon in like manner appear to remain in their places, while experience proves that they move along.

And mountains that stand up afar off from the midst of the ocean, between which is a great channel wide enough for a fleet to pass freely through, these nevertheless seem to be joined into a single island.

The room seems to children to be turning round and the columns revolving when they themselves have ceased to turn, so much so that they can hardly believe all the building is not threatening to fall in upon them.

Again, when nature begins to uplift on high the sun's beam red with flickering fires, and to raise it above the mountains, those mountains which the sun then seems to be above, quite close and touching them with his hot fire, are scarcely distant from us a couple of thousand bowshots of a javelin; but between them and the sun lie vast stretches of sea below the wide regions of the sky, between them are thrown many thousands of lands inhabited by manifold nations and tribes of wild beasts.

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From the Junior Deacon

But a puddle of water no more than one finger deep, lying between the stones upon a paved street, offers a view downwards under the earth to as great a reach as the open heavens yawn high, so that you seem to look down upon the clouds and heaven, and you see manifest objects miraculously buried beneath the earth.

Furthermore, when our spirited horse has struck fast in the middle of a river, and we have looked down upon the swift waters of the stream, while the horse stands there a force seems to be carrying his body sideways and pushing it violently against the stream, and, wherever we turn our eyes, all seems to be rushing and flowing in the same way as we are.

Again, a colonnade may be of equal line from end to end and supported by columns of equal height throughout, yet, when its whole length is surveyed from one end, it gradually contracts into the point of a narrowing cone, completely joining roof to floor and right to left, until it has gathered all into the vanishing point of the cone.

At sea sailors seem to perceive the sun to rise out of the water and to set in the water, and there to hide its light, naturally because they behold nothing but water and sky, that you may not lightly believe the credit of their senses to be utterly shaken.

Then those ignorant of the sea think that ships in harbor are maimed and struggling against the waves with stern-fittings broke. For whatever part of the oars is raised above the sea water is straight, and the rudders above are straight; but whatever is submerged under water seems to be all broken back and wrenched and turned flat upwards and thus bent back to be almost floating upon the flood.

And when the winds carry scattered clouds across the sky in the night time, then the shining stars seem to glide against the clouds and to pass above them in a very different direction from their true one.

Then, if by chance a hand be put beneath one eye, and press it beneath, a certain sensation follows which makes it appear that all we look at grows double then and there as we look: two lamps flowering with flames, the furniture all over the house multiplied by tow, men with double faces and two bodies each.

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From the Junior Deacon

Further, when sleep has fast bound our limbs with sweet drowsiness, and our whole body lies in profound quiet, yet we seem to ourselves then to be awake and to move our limbs, and in the blind darkness of night we think that we see the sun and the light of day, and we seem to exchange our narrow room for sky and sea, rivers and mountains, and traverse plains afoot, and to hear sounds though the stern silence of night reigns everywhere, and to utter speech while saying nothing.

We see in marvelous fashion many things besides of this kind, which all try as it were to break the credit of our senses; but all in vain, since the most part of them deceives because of opinions of the mind which we bring to them ourselves, so that things are held to be seen which have not been seen by our senses. For nothing is more difficult than to distinguish plain things from doubtful things which the mind of itself adds at once.

Moreover, if anyone thinks that nothing is known, he does not even know whether that can be known, since he declares that he knows nothing. I will therefore spare to plead cause against a man who has placed his head in his own footsteps. And yet even if I grant that he knows that, still I will ask just this: since material things had no truth of his vision to begin with, how he knows what it is to know or not to know as the case may be, what gave him the concept of true and false, what evidence proved that the doubtful differs from the certain.

You will find that it is from the senses in the first instance that the concept of truth has come, and that the senses cannot be refuted. For some standard must be found of greater credit, able of itself to refute false things by true. What, moreover, must be held to be of greater credit than the senses? Shall reasoning, derived from false sense, prevail against these senses, being itself wholly derived from the senses?

For unless they be true, all reasoning is false. Will the ear be able to convict the eye, or the touch the ear? Will the taste of the mouth again refute the touch, will nose confound it, or eye disprove it? Not so, I think. For each has its own separate function, each its own power, and it is therefore necessary to decide what is soft and cold or hot by separate sense, and by a separate sense to perceive the various colours of things and to see whatever is involved in colour. For the taste of the mouth has power on a separate sense, sound for another. Therefore it is necessary that one sense cannot refute another. Therefore it is necessary that one sense cannot refute another. Nor furthermore will they be able to convict themselves, since equal credit must always be allowed to them. Accordingly, what has seemed to these at any given time to be true, is true.

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From the Junior Deacon

And if reasoning shall be unable fully to explain the cause why things that were square close at hand seem to be round at a distance, yet it is better that one finds no reason explain the shape of either figure in a faulty manner, rather than anywhere to let slip from your hands the holdfast of the obvious, and break the credit from which all begins, and to tear up all the foundations upon which life and existence rest. For not only would all reasoning come to ruin, but life itself would at once collapse, unless you make bold to believe the senses, avoiding precipices and all else that must be eschewed of that sort, and following what is contrary. Therefore, believe me, vain is all that array of words which has been prepared and marshaled against the senses.

Lastly, as in a building, if the original rule is warped, if the square is faulty and deviates from straight lines, if the level is a trifle wrong in any part, the whole house will necessarily be made in a faulty fashion and be falling over, warped, sloping, leaning forward, leaning backward all out of proportion, so that some parts seem about to collapse on the instant, and some do collapse, all betrayed by false principles at the beginning. So therefore your reasoning about things must warped and false whenever it is based upon false senses.

(Lucretius, *De Rerum Natura*, with an English translation by W.H.D. Rouse revised by Martin Ferguson Smith, Harvard University Press, Cambridge, Massachusetts - 2001)



Fraternally,
Greg Butter
Junior Deacon 2011-2012



The Anointing of King Solomon

Announcements

- February 1, 2012 Holland Lodge No. 1 Officer Meeting, 6:00 p.m. meal and 7:00 p.m. meeting.
- February 6, 2012 Masonic Symbolism Discussion - Holland Lodge Library at 7:00 p.m. Master Masons only.
Esoteric Studies for all Freemasons will also be occurring.
Food - Snacks will be served at 6:00 p.m.
- February 8, 2012 Stated Meeting - The meal will be served at 6:30 p.m. and the stated meeting will begin at 7:30 p.m. Short talk by Right Worshipful Elmer Murphy, III (PGM of Texas).
- February 13, 2012 Esoteric Studies - Open to all Freemasons and begins at 7:00 p.m.
- February 17, 2012 The Alpha Submission Deadline is 5:30 p.m.
- February 20, 2012 Esoteric Studies - Open to all Freemasons and begins at 7:00 p.m.
- February 25, 2012 Masonic District 30A of The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Texas Ritual Forum. 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
- February 27, 2012 Esoteric Studies - Open to all Freemasons and begins at 7:00 p.m.



Royal Oaks Country Club

Holland Lodge No.1

1st Annual
Golf Tournament

April 3, 2012

Space is Limited
Make Reservations with
Barry Podwin 281.728.1310

We are Fellows of the Craft

We are Fellows of the Craft while doing Work betwixt the beginning and the ending.

The east is emblematical of the beginning of day or the morn of life.
The EA degree is emblematical of the morn of adulthood.

The south is emblematical of the meridian sun or the mid of life. The
FC degree is emblematical of the working time in Light given to us
between morn and eve.

The west is emblematical of the ending of day or the eve of life. The
MM degree is emblematical of the eve of adulthood.

Let us pursue our labors with assiduity and light hearts while
anticipating the night which ushers in the everlasting day.

Together, Fellows of the Craft, we build.

By Michael Meier

York Rite Masonry

Ruthven Commandery No. 2

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

February 10, 2012

York Rite Festival

February 11, 2012

6:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Holland Lodge Building

Scottish Rite Freemasonry

Houston Scottish Rite Bodies

REUNION

July 28, 2012

7:30 a.m. - 6:35 p.m.

February 23, 2012

Stated Meeting - Meal at 6:00 p.m. and Stated 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.texaslodgofresearch.org



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.

My Government Day, and more...

My Government Day is one of seven annual obligatory events by members of DeMolay International.

Quoting the DeMolay International Rules and Regulations, "On My Government Day it is the duty of each Chapter to arrange a program at which the members may learn about the government of the country in which the Chapter is located".

The 35th annual Texas DeMolay Government Day is scheduled for Feb 11-12, 2012 in Austin. The young men temporarily replace our elected congress persons in our State Capitol to hands-on practice and experience first-hand the procedures of law making.

Another upcoming observance is Educational Day. Quoting the DeMolay International Rules and Regulations again, "On Educational Day it is the duty of each Chapter to arrange a program that will tend to emphasize the value of an education and the fact that the public school is a bulwark of liberty and must be maintained." Intellectual Liberty with our Public Schools remain the foundation of our country's greatness.

The Seven Obligatory Days for Demolays worldwide are; Patriots' Day, Devotional Day, Parents' Day, My Government Day, Frank S. Land (founder of the Order of DeMolay) Memorial Day, Day of Comfort, and Educational Day. These correlate with the the seven Cardinal Precepts within DeMolay; Love of Family, Reverence, Courtesy, Comradeship, Fidelity, Cleanness, and Patriotism.

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*Further information and petition to Houston Chapter 201 of DeMolay
International are online at
<http://home.earthlink.net/~mdphillipus/id2.html>.*

by Michael Meier



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 the third Friday (at 5:30 p.m.) of every month. The first week of each month is the week of publication. Ones request and article should be sent to the Worshipful Master at his email address.

If one desires to have the Alpha delivered electronically do so by sending the request to the Worshipful Master at his e-mail address. 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 Joseph of Spade Designs (spadehighcard@sbcglobal.net) who is the artist for the new Holland Lodge No. 1 Masonic Logo used in the electronic Alpha publication.



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.

Holland Lodge No. 1 - 2011 - 2012 Officers

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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

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