

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



Cornucopia

Table of Contents

From the East	page 3
From the Junior Deacon	page 7
November Stated Meeting Will Honor American Veterans	page 11
Announcements	page 12
“Lest We Forget” Colin Clarke	page 15
Holland Lodge No. 1 First Annual Golf Tournament	page 17
York Rite Masonry	page 18
Scottish Rite Freemasonry	page 19
Order of Demolay	page 23
Notes	page 27
Holland Lodge No. 1 2011-2012 Officer List with Email Addresses	page 28

From the East

Brethren,

Amazingly, another month has already sped by since the last Alpha. In that brief span, the Lodge has continued to conduct both Entered Apprentice and Fellowcraft degrees. The degree teams continue to do outstanding work of which you can be proud. If you have not participated in a degree or observed a degree lately, please consider coming out soon. I am pleased to see that the degrees are well attended and that of course adds value to any degree.

During the past month, Brother Porter has spearheaded the Rice Business School application process in the hope of an MBA student team reviewing the Lodge's options in the event we were to receive a serious offer for our property. While we are not in the market to sell, it only makes sense to know and understand our financial options. If our application is accepted, the Rice MBA team would assist us in developing financial models that we could update in the future. One option is to do nothing until we are forced financially into a decision, probably the worst option. Another is to sell and rebuild or rent. Once these models are developed, we need to keep them current.

As an alternative to the sell option, we are working as best we can to keep our Lodge building by attempting to balance our books, as we have operated too long on the wrong side of the ledger. The first step in that direction was taken by the Brethren last month when they voted overwhelmingly to raise the amount of annual dues from \$125 to \$250 a month. While at first glance, that appears to be a lot (100% increase), it still represents only a cost of about \$20 per month. This is but the first step as we go about improving our financial condition. We are currently reviewing the cost of an endowed membership, currently \$1,200; degree fees, cost cutting measures and fundraisers. Brother Senior Warden has been very aggressive in planning fundraisers this year. Please monitor future editions of the Alpha for more on our fundraising activities. If you have further ideas, please share them with us. Your input is most welcome.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

From the East

At our November Stated Meeting, we will be honoring our veterans and it should be a very special evening. If you can at all make it in November, we would love to see you. In light of the importance of this event, we will open in an EA lodge for maximum participation and attendance. Please note the flyer on page 11 highlighting this special event. Following the veterans' program, we will review the Grand Lodge proposed resolutions as Grand Lodge is right around the corner. On November 5th, Holland Lodge will again be the site of the Grand Lodge Committee on Work Forum and Examination, starting at 10 AM. You are encouraged to attend the forum, even if you choose not to stay for the examination. It is a time of some pretty in-depth Masonic education from which we all stand to benefit. At our December stated meeting, we will present to results of Grand Lodge and will have another special treat as we welcome our new District Deputy Grand Master on his first official visit to Holland Lodge. Since the names of the new DDGM slate have not yet been released, the December Alpha edition should be available right after we return from Grand Lodge and will at that time properly identify our new District Deputy Grand Master. Finally, on January 18th, we will receive our new Grand Master, James F. Brumit, on his first official visit to Holland Lodge.

As you can see, there are many designs upon the Trestle Board, and there is much labor yet to be done. I would be remiss if I did not identify the solid work done by Brother Senior Warden Barry Podwin this past month during my personal illness. He has truly lived up to the highest ideals of his office by strengthening me and the Lodge during this personally challenging time. Thank you Brother Podwin and all the other Brethren who have chipped in this month to do a little extra. Your contributions are noticed and very much appreciated. Lastly, for all those out there who are suffering from a serious illness, I would like to leave you with the thoughts of this inspiring poem, found and submitted by Brother Robert McCaslin. While it addresses cancer, its words could address any illness or disease.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

From the East

CANCER IS SO LIMITED

Cancer is so limited

It cannot cripple love

It cannot shatter hope

It cannot corrode faith

It cannot eat away peace

It cannot destroy confidence

It cannot kill friendship

Cancer is so limited

It cannot shut out memories

It cannot silence courage

It cannot invade the soul

It cannot reduce eternal life

It cannot quench the spirit

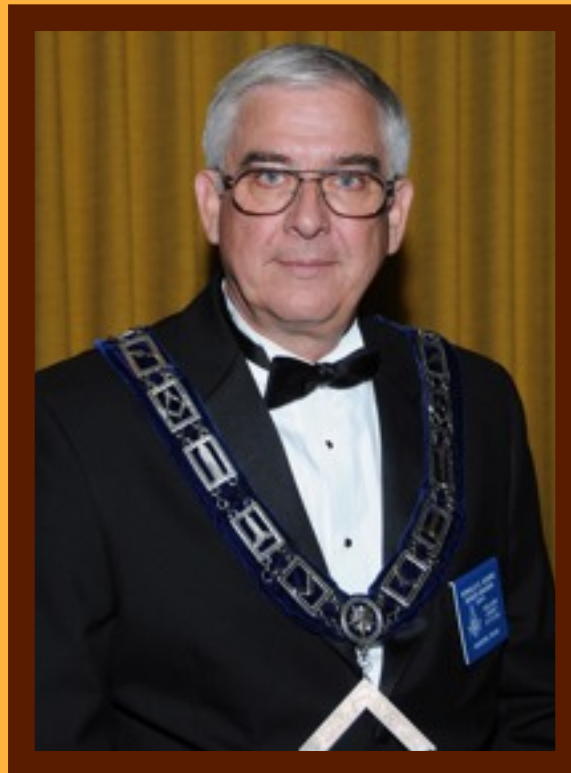
It cannot lessen the power of the Resurrection

author unknown

From the East

Fraternally,

Ronald E. Adams, Worshipful Master



Ron Adams, Worshipful Master 2011-2012

From the Junior Deacon

Moral Essays
Volume III

I must now explain that the first thing we have to learn is what it is that we owe when a benefit has been received. For one man says that he owes the money which he has received, another the consulship, another the priesthood, another the administration of a province. But these things are the marks of services rendered, not the services themselves. A benefit cannot possibly be touched by the hand; its province is the mind. There is a great difference between the matter of a benefit and the benefit itself; and so it is neither gold nor silver nor any gifts which are held to be most valuable that constitutes a benefit, but merely the goodwill of him who bestows it. But the ignorant regard only that which meets the eye, that which passes from hand to hand and is laid hold of, while they attach little value to that which is really rare and precious. The gifts that we take in our hands, that we gaze upon, that in our covetousness we cling to, are perishable; for fortune or injustice may take them from us. But a benefit endures after that through which it was manifest has been lost; for it is a virtuous act, and no power can undo it.

If I have rescued a friend from pirates, and afterwards a different enemy seized him and shut him up in prison, he has been robbed, not of my benefit, but of the enjoyment of my benefit. [T]herefore [that] which falsely assume[s] the name of benefits, are but the services through which the goodwill of a friend reveals itself. The same thing is true also of other bestowals - the form of the bestowal is one thing, the bestowal itself another. The general presents a soldier with a breast-chain or with a mural and civic crown. But what value has the crown itself? What the purple-bordered robe? What the fasces? What the tribunal and the chariot? No one of these things is an honor, they are the badges of honor. In like manner that which falls beneath the eye is not a benefit - it is but the trace and mark of a benefit.

What then is a benefit? It is the act of well wisher who bestows joy and derives joy from the bestowal of it, and is inclined to do what he does from the prompting of his own will. And so what counts is, not what is done or what is given, but the spirit of the action, because a benefit consists, not in what is done or given, but in the intention of the giver or doer. The great distinction that exists between these things, moreover may be grasped from the simple statement that a benefit is undoubtedly a good while what is done or given is neither a good nor an evil.

Continued on page 8

From the Junior Deacon

It is the intention that exalts small gifts, gives lustre to those that are mean, and discredits those that are great and considered of value; the things themselves that men desire have a neutral nature, which is neither good nor evil; all depends upon the end toward which these are directed by the Ruling Principle (man's mind is part of the Universal Mind, the creative principle of the world - God) that gives to things their form. The benefit itself is not something that is counted out and handed over, just as, likewise, the honor that is paid to the gods lies, not in the victims for sacrifice, though they be fat and glitter with gold, but in the upright and holy desire of the worshippers. Good men, therefore, are pleasing to the gods with an offering of meal and gruel; the bad, on the other hand, do not escape impiety although they dye the alters with streams of blood.

If benefits consisted, not in the very desire to benefit, but in things, then the greater the gifts are which we have received, the greater would be the benefits. But this is not true; for sometimes we feel under greater obligations to one who has given small gifts out of a great heart, who "by his spirit matched the wealth of kings," who bestowed his little, but gave it gladly, who beholding my poverty forgot his own, who had, not merely the willingness, but a desire to help, who counted a benefit given as a benefit received, who gave it with no thought of having it returned, who, when it was returned, had no thought of having given it, who not only sought, but seized, the opportunity of being useful. On the other hand, as I have said before, those benefits win no thanks, which, though they seem great from their substance and show, are either forced from the giver or are carelessly dropped, and that comes much more gratefully which is given by a willing rather than by a full hand. The benefit which one man bestowed upon me is small, but he was not able to give more; that which another gave me is great, but he hesitated, he put it off, he grumbled when he gave it, he gave it haughtily, he published it abroad, and the person he tried to please was not the one on whom he bestowed his gift - he made an offering, not to me, but to his pride.

(Seneca - Moral Essays Volume III, written translation by John W. Basore, Loeb Classic Library, Harvard University Press Cambridge, Massachusetts, 2001. Book V,1-VII, 3)

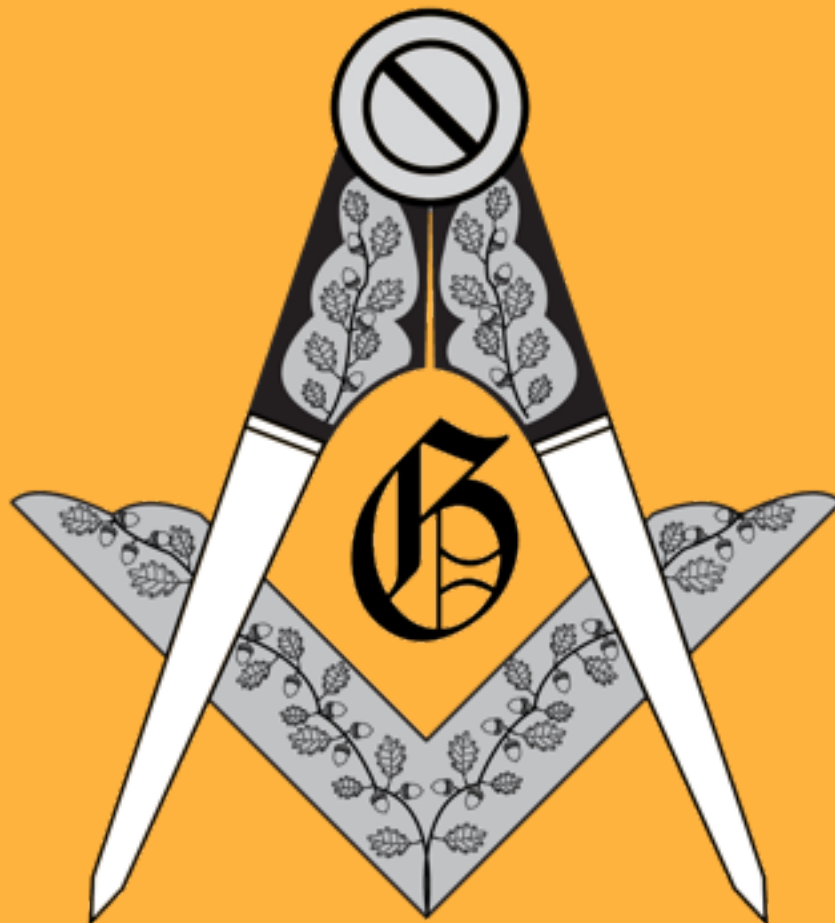
Continued on page 9

From the Junior Deacon

Warmly & Fraternally,

Greg





**Please join Holland Lodge No. 1 for our
November stated meeting as we Honor
America's Veterans.**



**Wednesday, November 9, 2011
4911 Montrose Blvd. Houston, Texas 77006
Dinner at 6:30pm, Meeting at 7:30pm**

**Two very special invited speakers to recount laudable undertakings performed in the
service of our country as we pay respect to all of our veterans.**

All EA's, FC's, and Master Masons are welcome!

****Special gift for every Mason in attendance to display for years to come****

Announcements

- November 5, 2011 Committee on Work Forum and Exam at Holland Lodge No. 1 10:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. A meal will be served.
- November 7, 2011 Masonic Symbolism Discussion - Holland Lodge Library at 7:00 p.m. Topics: “Pot of Incense” & “Youth, Manhood, and Age.” Master Masons only.
Esoteric Studies for all Freemasons will also be occurring.
Food - Snacks will be served at 6:00 p.m.
- November 9, 2011 Stated Meeting - The meal will be served at 6:30 p.m. and the stated meeting will begin at 7:30 p.m.
- November 14, 2011 Esoteric Studies - Open to all Freemasons and begins at 7:00 p.m.
- November 18, 2011 The Alpha Submission Deadline is 5:30 p.m.
- November 21, 2011 Esoteric Studies - Open to all Freemasons and begins at 7:00 p.m.
- November 28, 2011 Esoteric Studies - Open to all Freemasons and begins at 7:00 p.m.
- December 5, 2011 Masonic Symbolism Discussion - Holland Lodge Library at 7:00 p.m. Topic: “Weeping Virgin & Attendant Symbols” Master Masons only.
Esoteric Studies for all Freemasons will also be occurring.
Food - Snacks will be served at 6:00 p.m.

THE 176TH GRAND
COMMUNICATION
OF
THE GRAND LODGE OF
TEXAS
DECEMBER 1-3, 2011



Holland Lodge

Scholarship Brisket Sale

On Sale NOW!

\$50.00 ea.

Contact Any Member
Delivery December 10-11, 2011

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



Houston, Texas

From the Marshal

Lest We Forget.

This coming November 11th 2011 (11/11/11) marks the 93th anniversary of Armistice Day, the date of the cessation of hostilities in that eternal reminder of mans' capacity of inhumanity to his fellow man, the "War to End all Wars," World War One.

It is also a day, however, when we remember these, subsequent and present day heroes who gave so much, some gave all- for the freedom and liberties we now take for granted. Brothers who hail from the British Commonwealth may recognize a symbol worn by the officers of Holland Lodge at this time. This symbol is the Poppy, more especially the Masonic version.

The poppy was a small red flower which grew on some of the more famous the battlefields of World War One- Flanders, the Somme and Ypres. The blood red color of the petals came to symbolize the blood shed by the soldiers in these mud soaked battles of attrition. Since those terrible days, the wearing of poppies has had a two-fold effect. Firstly, the selling of these raises money to help various charities which help out ex-Servicemen and provide a suitable home for our heroes.

Secondly, we are told to wear the poppies with pride. This is incredibly important. Not only are we thankful to our military past and present, we are incredibly proud of what they did and continue to do on our behalf. When a poppy is worn, it displays to **everyone** the pride that we have in the men and women of our Armed Forces , regardless of our political opinion on the justness of the conflict.

Ninety three years may seem like an eternity, but the survivors of the First War and our present generations made a solemn promise to those who joined the Great Fallen of 1914-1918, that we would always honor those who perished. As Brother Kipling wrote "Lest We Forget."

Continued on page 16

From the Marshal

“lest we forget”

*“They shall not grow old, as we that are left grow old,
Age shall not weary them nor the years condemn,
At the going down of the sun and in the morning,
We shall remember them”*

Thanks to the RW Bro. David
I Smith, Lodge 1405,
Inchinnan, Scotland for his
assistance with the Poppies.

Fraternally,

Colin Clarke



Colin Clarke, Marshal - 2011-2012

Holland Lodge

1st Annual

Golf Tournament

April 2, 2012

(Details to Follow in December)

York Rite Masonry

Red Cross of Constantine

5:00 p.m. Meal & 7:00 p.m. Installation of Officers

Ruthven Commandery No. 2

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

November 11, 2011

Washington Chapter No. 2 Royal Arch Masons

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

November 14, 2011

Scottish Rite Freemasonry

Houston Scottish Rite Bodies

REUNION
TBA

November 17, 2011

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.texaslodgeresearch.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.



Houston Chapter #201 is actively "Celebrating 90 Years of Making DeMolay History 1921~2011".

Saturday the 12th of November 2011 will be a fulfilling time. Full form Initiatory and DeMolay degrees are to be conferred upon candidates during the afternoon. The evening is to include Houston Chapter's annual Parents Appreciation Dinner plus the annual Honors and Awards presentations. Everyone (female or male) over twenty-one (21) yrs old is welcome to attend and observe the degrees and ceremonies; non-Masons will be required to accept a short promise of confidentiality beforehand.

Keep in mind the Houston Chapter degree teams regularly win awards for excellence in state, national, and international competitions. They meet in our building on Wednesday evenings and generally hold special events on weekends as shown on our Holland Lodge online calendar. Visit with them and do yourself see how good and serious their work remains. <http://home.earthlink.net/~mdphillipus/>

Gulf Coast Court of Chevaliers



2010-2011 Officers

The Degree of Chevalier is the highest honor for distinguished DeMolay service that can be awarded to a DeMolay by the International Supreme Council of the Order of DeMolay. Approximately one percent of all members of the Order receive the Degree of Chevalier. The degree cannot be applied for, and the nomination is made without the knowledge of the DeMolay to be honored. The unanimous vote of DeMolay International at its regular Session is required to elect a nominee.

The Gulf Coast Court of Chevaliers will have the annual obligatory gathering in early November together with elections and Installation of Officers for 2011-2012. Due to article leadtimes, members are reminded to keep checking the Facebook pages for details to be announced. Also, remember your annual report should arrive around the time this is published so watch your mail for it and be sure to promptly complete and return it directly to DeMolay International.

Houston Chapter DeMolay



As the twig is bent, so grows the tree. Houston Chapter's newest and youngest is another member of the Meier family. Dutch was inducted (received the obligation) on his birthday in October 2011. He is scheduled receive the balance of the full form degrees on the 12th of November. Deadline for petitions to be a candidate for this special class should be November 2nd so please print and submit with the \$75 lifetime fees for a young man known to you. Petitions for DeMolay are online at <http://home.earthlink.net/~mdphillipus/sitebuildercontent/sitebuilderfiles/houstondemolaypetition042011.pdf>

Houston Priory

Houston Priory of the Chivalric Knights of the Holy Order of the Fellow Soldiers of Jacques DeMolay recently inducted seven new Knights from various DeMolay chapters located in and around the Harris County area. The current Texas State Master Councilor for DeMolay and two past Texas State Illustrious Knight Commanders served as members of the degree team. Every member of the degree team that October evening (excepting the Sacristan, not yet 18) is a Texas Master Mason. Several are also active members of SR & YR! These fine young men really are the future of Texas Masonry.

The knighthood is an appendent organization of DeMolays over 16 yrs of age. Through the years, the activities of the Knights have consisted of social and educational programs geared to older DeMolays, with a special emphasis on career planning and coed activities. Although an invitational body, it is not an honorary degree or award, but a working body whose purpose is to extend fellowship and serve the Order of DeMolay. More information is online at <http://home.earthlink.net/~mdphillipus/id34.html> and also at <http://www.demolay.org/community/appendent/knighthood.php>

It is totally A-OK to invite young men to join DeMolay. Petitions are online at <http://home.earthlink.net/~mdphillipus/sitebuildercontent/sitebuilderfiles/houstondemolaypetition042011.pdf> for Houston Chapter of DeMiolay International. Remember that young men of today will be Masons of tomorrow. Let's get them started and going upon a good and moral path together.

Submitted by
Michael Meier - Senior DeMolay, Senior Knight, and Active DeMolay Chevalier



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 Friday (at 5:30 p.m.) the third week 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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