

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



Brotherly Love,
Relief,
&
Truth

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From the East

Brethren,

Believe it or not, October is already upon us and promises to be another great month. The Lodge has been a beehive of activity and continues to be active. In September, we were blessed by the presence of Brother Michael Wiggins at our Stated Meeting, wherein he gave a very interesting short talk on Masonry. He, Brother Wendell Miller, (short Masonic presentation in July Stated Meeting) and Brother James Roy Elliott, who will make a short Masonic presentation in the October Stated Meeting, all happen to be available this year to serve in the Grand South, if elected. Although neither event was a Holland Lodge function, September also saw the Grand Master's reception of area worshipful masters and the Grand Secretary's training of area secretaries, both occurring at Holland Lodge.

September also saw our Senior Warden, Brother Barry Podwin leading two more successful Lodge cleanup days. A special thanks is also owed to several brethren from Sam B. Crawford Lodge who assisted in the pressure washing of the covered parking area. Slowly but surely, the Lodge is improving. Nonetheless, the extended drought has caused its own havoc at Holland Lodge in the apparent settlement of the foundation, causing several cracks in the building. We are in the process of collecting bids to determine the extent of the damage and the estimated cost to repair it.

Recently introduced from Grand Lodge is a new Petition Investigations Manual, now available from the Grand Lodge website and from the Holland Lodge website under the "Become a Mason" link. Please check out this document, especially if you have been appointed to an investigating committee. While not a law, it is provided as an aid in completing proper investigations.

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From the East

Brethren, I want to stress the importance of your attendance at the October 2011 Stated Meeting! The motion was made last month to raise our dues and to increase the cost of an endowed membership. I tabled that motion and carried it over to October to allow time for consideration by all. While the cost of an endowed membership can only be accomplished by a change in the bylaws, dues can increase by a favorable vote of the brethren. Bylaws changes can only be voted upon in the month we elect our officers – which will occur in June, 2012. As you consider these two issues, keep in mind that Grand Lodge increased its per capita returns, effective in 2012, so we must resolve the dues increase this calendar year. As always, this is your lodge so please show up and make your voice heard.

As stated last month, you continue to do a great job for the fraternity and I thank you all. I also wish to again send out a special message to our sick, infirmed and recovering brothers to get well soon and hurry back to Lodge. We do miss you.

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From the East

Fraternally,

Ronald E. Adams, Worshipful Master



Ron Adams, Worshipful Master 2011-2012

From the South

Happy autumn to you all, brethren! For those of you afar off or unable to attend, I am pleased to report that our lodge has been quite active with a continuous influx of new petitioners as well as an energetic group of young EAs, FCs, and MMs eager to learn and help the lodge. I would like to recognize and thank Bros. Brockstein, Saunders, and Lewis for an excellent job on the annual audit and report. As you are undoubtedly aware, there has been a motion to raise our lodge's annual dues to \$250 beginning next year. While understanding the difficult economic times at present, \$250 is less than \$21 monthly or less than the cost of a meal for two. It is important to ask, "What is masonry worth to you?" Many members are endowed and will be unaffected by these changes. However, costs of day-to-day operations at the lodge (meals, utilities, office expenses, per capita dues, etc.) continue to rise and impact our lodge's bottom line. I would encourage endowed members who can afford to do so to consider making an additional contribution to the lodge (as little as \$20) to offset some of these expenses.

As I reported at the September stated meeting, Most Worshipful T.E. Gene Carnes, Grand Master of Masons in Texas, spoke at the Wardens Retreat and encouraged lodges to stress Masonic education beyond degree work, including Grand Lodge law and Masonic symbolism and history. I am proud to report that we have also been diligent in offering lessons from Grand Lodge law, and for the past year we have had monthly meetings to discuss Masonic symbolism throughout the ages. These meetings are open to all Master Masons, moderated by Bros. Spencer and Lewis, and are usually held on the first Monday of the month in the Holland Lodge library. I would encourage all brothers to attend! Please check the calendar to confirm the date at <http://www.hollandlodge.org/Calendar.htm>

To impart a bit of historical Masonic information, I offer the Masonic record of Brother General George Washington. This information was obtained from the George Washington Masonic Memorial webpage at <http://gwmemorial.org>

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From the South

1752

- November 4, 1752 - Initiated as Entered Apprentice at Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4, Fredericksburg, Virginia.

1753

- March 3, 1753 - Passed to the Degree of Fellow Craft at Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4
- August 4, 1753 - Raised a Master Masaon at Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4.

1788

- April 28, 1788 - Named Charter Worshipful Master of Alexandria Lodge No. 22 when a new charter from the Grand Lodge of Virginia was issued. Unanimously re-elected Master December 20, 1788 for one year.

1789

- Elected honorary member of Holland Lodge No. 8, New York, NY

1793

- September 18 Acting Grand Master - Laid the cornerstone for the United States Capitol, Washington, D.C.

1799

- December 18, 1799 - Buried at Mount Vernon with Masonic rites as well as those of the church, conducted by Alexandria Lodge

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From the South

Fraternal greetings and best wishes to you and your loved ones,

Matthew B. Murphy
Junior Warden



Matthew B. Murphy, Junior Warden 2011-2012

From the Secretary

ABIF

Why was Hiram, the builder, and ancient Grand Master called “Abif”?

A Hebrew word, signifying “his father.” It is often used in the Scriptures as a title of honor. It was given to Hiram, the Tyrian builder, probably because of his distinguished skill. The Scriptures refer to him as the “Widow’s Son.” 1 K 7:13.

Fraternally & Sincerely,
Phillip von Stephens



Phillip von Stephens, Secretary 2011-2012

From the Junior Deacon

De Offices Book III
The Conflict Between The Right and The Expedient

Well then, for a man to take something from his neighbor and to profit by his neighbor's loss is more contrary to nature than is death or poverty or pain or anything else that can affect either our person or our property. For, in the first place, injustice is fatal to social life and fellowship between man and man. For, if we are so disposed that each, to gain some personal profit, will defraud or injure his neighbor, then those bonds of human society, which are most in accord with Nature's laws, must of necessity be broken. Suppose, by way of comparison, that each one of our bodily members should conceive this idea and imagine that it could be strong and well if it should draw off to itself the health and strength of its neighboring member, the whole body would necessarily be enfeebled and die, so, if each one of us should seize upon the property of his neighbors and take from each whatever he could appropriate to his own use, the bonds of human society must inevitably be annihilated. For, without any conflict with Nature's laws, it is granted that everybody may prefer to secure for himself rather than for his neighbor what is essential for the conduct of life; but Nature's laws do forbid us to increase our means, wealth, and resources by despoiling others.

But this principle is established not by Nature's laws alone (that is, by common rules of equity), but also by the statutes of particular communities, in accordance with which in individual states the public interests are maintained.

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From the Junior Deacon

In all these it is with one accord ordained that no man shall be allowed for the sake of his own advantage to injure his neighbor. For it is to this that the laws have regard; this is their intent, that the bonds of union between citizens should not be impaired; and any attempt to destroy these bonds is repressed by the penalty of death, exile, imprisonment, or fine.

Again, this principle follows much more effectually directly from the Reason which is in Nature, which is the law of gods and men. If anyone will hearken to that voice (and all will hearken to it who wish to live in accord with Nature's laws), he will never be guilty of coveting anything that is his neighbor's or of appropriating to himself what he has taken from his neighbor. Then, too, loftiness and greatness of spirit, and courtesy, justice, and generosity are much more in harmony with Nature than are selfish pleasures, riches, and life itself; but it requires a great and lofty spirit to despise these latter and count them s naught, when one weighs them over against the common weal. [But for anyone to rob his neighbor for his own profit is more contrary to Nature than death, pain, and the like.]

In like manner it is more in accord with Nature to emulate the great Hercules and undergo the greatest toil and trouble for the sake of aiding or saving the world, if possible, than to live in seclusion, not only free from all care, but reveling in pleasures and abounding in

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From the Junior Deacon

wealth, while excelling others also in beauty and strength. Thus Hercules denied himself and underwent toil and tribulation for the world, and, out of gratitude for his services, popular belief has given him a place in the council of gods.

The better and more noble, therefore, the character with which a man is endowed, the more does he prefer the life of service to the life of pleasure. Whence it follows that man, if he is obedient to Nature, cannot do harm to his fellow-man.

(Cicero - De Offices, written translation by Walter Miller, Loeb Classic Library, Harvard University Press Cambridge, Massachusetts, 2001. Book III 21-26)

Warmly & Fraternaly,

Greg Butter



2nd, 175th Anniversary Update

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

August 2, 2011

I am pleased to send warm greetings to you on this special occasion.

Throughout our Nation's history, fraternities have cultivated, supported, and celebrated leadership, service, and academic excellence. By recognizing these values and empowering members to reach for common goals, these organizations have helped open doors of opportunity for countless Americans to forge new paths to success.

Our proudest fraternities are those marked by achievement and a strong sense of community, and membership in these orders reflects outstanding character and meaningful relationships. As you gather to celebrate the unique contributions of your fraternity, I wish you all the best.

Barack Obama

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

From the Kitchen

Our own Kevin Gorman recently stepped up and served Free Masonry very well.

Grand Secretary, Right Worshipful Tommy D. Guest, held his Grand Secretary's School at Holland Lodge on Saturday the 17th of September 2011. Although open to all Masons, it was more especially recommended for Lodge Secretaries and all officers. It has become an annual event at Holland Lodge.

Kevin had hot coffee ready for the first arrivals. Kevin served a freshly cooked breakfast of scrambled eggs, pancakes, and sides along with orange juice and plenty more hot coffee. Grand Master, Most Worshipful "Gene" Carnes, attended as yet another student for the day. Worshipful Master Ronald Adams (himself a past HL1 Steward and therefore a 'veteran' of our kitchen) gazed his eyes across the processes unfolding and found nothing lacking.

The class proceeded per the usual curriculum. Kevin set out iced bottles of water after breakfast and kept hot coffee flowing as he began preparing and cooking the lunch. He cooked a tasty spaghetti centered lunch with salad, vegetables, sides, and breads. Assorted baked sweet snacks were set out for desserts. Hot coffee kept flowing.

Seventy two Masons signed in as attendees for the event. Add the folks putting on the class plus a few support folks and it is said Kevin fed two meals to around eighty grateful people that day. Kevin kept iced water and hot coffee flowing until all the attendees departed after 3pm. Did anyone mention the observed need to keep enough coffee brewing while Masons gather? (grins) Kevin had five pots of coffee brewing all day.

Kevin Gorman again served Holland Lodge, our Grand Lodge, and Free Masonry very well. Additionally Stanely Stevens was of service to Brother Gorman regarding cleaning, THANK YOU BROTHER!

Submitted by Michael Meier, Kevin's assistant that day



Announcements

- October 3, 2011 - 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.
- October 8, 2011 - Masonic Family Day at TMRC, Arlington, Texas 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
- October 10, 2011 - Holland Lodge No. 1 Officers Meeting, Meal at 6:00 p.m. and the meeting at 7:00 p.m. in the Holland Lodge Library.
Esoteric Studies for all Freemasons will also be occurring.
- October 12, 2011 - Stated Meeting - The meal will be served at 6:30 p.m. and the stated meeting will begin at 7:30 p.m. Guest Speaker James Roy Elliott.
- October 17, 2011 - Esoteric Studies - Open to all Freemasons and begins at 7:00 p.m.
- October 24, 2011 - Esoteric Studies - Open to all Freemasons and begins at 7:00 p.m.

Workmen at the Temple - Part II
September 2, 2011



Senior Warden - Barry Podwin

Workmen at the Temple - Part II

September 2, 2011



Worshipful Master Holland Lodge No. 1
2011-2012
Ronald Adams
&
Brother Barry Podwin

Workmen at the Temple - Part II
September 2, 2011



Sam B. Crawford Brethren
Thank You!

Brother Robert Burchfield; WM Ron Adams (Holland Lodge);
Brother Wes Holmes & Brother Bobby Hitt



Silent Stones Speaking Softly

When is a man a Mason? (A Second Look)

When he can look out over the rivers, the hills, and the far horizon with a profound sense of his own littleness in the vast scheme of things, and yet have faith, hope, and courage-which is the root of every virtue.

When he knows that down in his heart every man is as noble, as vile, as divine, as diabolic, and as lonely as himself, and seeks to know, to forgive, and to love his fellowman.

When he knows how to sympathize with men in their sorrows, yea, even in their sins-knowing that each man fights a hard fight against many odds.

When he has learned how to make friends and to keep them, and above all how to keep friends with himself.

When he loves flowers, can hunt birds without a gun, and feels the thrill of an old forgotten joy when he hears the laugh of a little child.

When he can be happy and high-minded amid the meaner drudgeries of life.

When star-crowned trees and the glint of sunlight on flowing waters subdue him like the thought of one much loved and long dead.

When no voice of distress reaches his ears in vain, and no hand seeks his aid without response.

When he finds good in every faith that helps any man to lay hold of divine things and sees majestic meanings in life, whatever the name of that faith may be.

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When he can look into a wayside
puddle and see something beyond
mud,
and into the face of the most forlorn
fellow mortal and see something
beyond sin.

When he knows how to pray, how to
love, how to hope.

When he has kept faith with himself,
with his fellowman, and with his
God; in his hands a sword for evil, in
his heart a bit of a song-glad
to live, but not afraid to die!

Such a man has found the only real
secret of Masonry, and the one
which it is trying to give to all the
world.

by Rev. Joseph Fort Newton

Fraternally,

Michael Meier

York Rite Masonry

Ruthven Commandery No. 2

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

October 14, 2011

Houston Council No. 1 R&SM

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

October 10, 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

October 27, 2011

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

4911 Montrose Boulevard
Houston, Texas 77006

Blue Room



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.



Happy Birthday to Houston Chapter #201

October 11, 1921 is the date Houston Chapter was set to work by the International Supreme Council of The Order of DeMolay. The Order of DeMolay had been in existence hardly over two years when the charter was granted to this chapter in perpetuity. Said charter was the 201st issued worldwide. Thousands more charters have since been issued. Houston Chapter remains a shining beacon by which many younger chapters often navigate.

Houston Chapter has been operating for 90 years. Houston Chapter continues passing along the degrees and lessons which so many still find are good and useful moral compasses for a good and fruitful life.

You have probably noticed DeMolay members in the building when attending Holland Lodge functions on Wednesday evenings. Although they do not wear aprons, you can rest assured they are doing what we would recognize as good Work.

"As the twig is bent, so grows the tree." Consider submitting a petition for a worthy young man known to you. The petition fees are \$75 total and include lifetime membership in the Order. This is a much lower cost than a new video game console, new cell phone (without contract), a few outings to movies, or many other expenses in the life of a teenager. You likely know a son, nephew, cousin, neighborhood acquaintance, or other teen-aged young man yearning for good moral instruction, guidance, and support without knowing DeMolay is available to him. There is no requirement for a Masonic family member to submit a petition for DeMolay.

Petitions are generally available on the third floor landing and also are online at <http://home.earthlink.net/~mdphillipus/sitebuildercontent/sitebuilderfiles/houstondemolaypetition042011.pdf>

Congratulations to Houston Chapter #201 of DeMolay and best wishes for many, many, many more years and decades of success.

Submitted by Michael Meier, Senior DeMolay



Houston Chapter No. 201

“The Beginning Determines the End”

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. Ones 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 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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