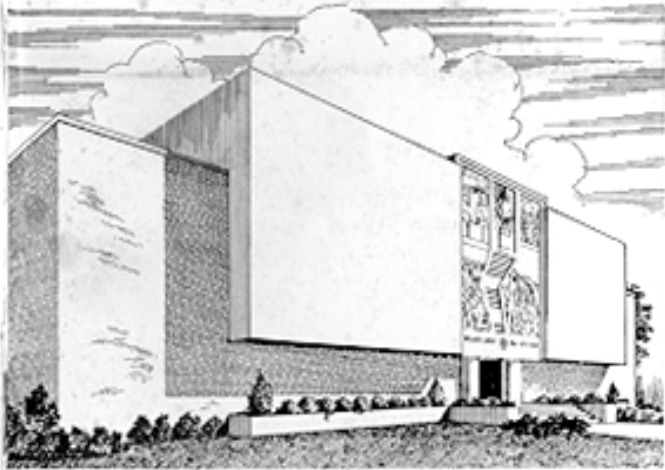


The Alpha

Holland Lodge No. 1 A.F. & A.M.
4911 Montrose Boulevard,
Houston TX 77006
(713) 529-0912
www.hollandlodge.org
April 2006
Volume 36 Number 10
Bill Sessums, Jr. P.M. – Editor



Stated Meeting
April 12, 2006
Dinner at 6:30 P.M.
Lodge opens at 7:30 P.M.

Program:

A Masonic talk by our newest Master Mason,
Bro. Fred Kurtis Kasper

Remember this Month:

**4th Annual Holland Lodge #1
College Scholarship Award
and The Lamar Awards Program
Wednesday, April 26, 2006**

Remember Next Month:

**The Holland Lodge #1
Community Builder Award
and a Third Monday Program**

Tom Behrman, Worshipful Master

Holland Lodge No.1: 1835-2005
170 years of Masonry in Texas

Brethren, I am glad we came together at the **Town Hall meeting on Saturday, March 4, 2006**, to frankly talk about the real estate situation at Holland. This afforded us an opportunity to extensively discuss the past, present and future of our Lodge. We had almost 60 members and engaged in a discussion and dialogue with the Strategic Planning Committee (“SPC”, or the “Committee”). The SPC delivered copies of its written, interim report and extensively briefed the members assembled on its contents. The SPC set out its charge, the problem facing the Lodge and possible solutions to our current situation. Not only did we hear from each of the individual members of the Committee, but more importantly, we heard from many of our members in attendance as to their opinions, perspectives and questions. We have now discussed these matters on several occasions at Lodge, both at Stated meetings and at this town hall meeting. The interim report prepared by the Committee is a detailed analysis of the work of going on a couple of years and the interim report was also delivered at the March Stated Meeting. The report was made with supporting material, including a financial fact sheet prepared by the Treasurer, a spreadsheet with a financial analysis and projections prepared by the Junior Warden and the most current demographics on the Lodge membership. This process of discussion and dialogue is vital to the future of our Lodge. If you did not receive a copy of the SPC interim report and attachments, please ask the Secretary for a copy. It is important that you are informed and become, or continue to be, engaged in this matter. As we discussed both at the town hall meeting, at previous Stated meetings and at the last Stated meeting, we have received several solicitations this year and in the event that the proper form of contract and requisite money deposit is received, after review by our attorneys to comport with GLOT laws, any such matter will be presented to the Lodge for vote. The future of Holland Lodge No. 1 depends on you! I want to take this opportunity to express my thanks and appreciation to those members who attended the town hall meeting. More particularly, I want to thank the hard working members of our Strategic Planning Committee for their many hours, thoughts and love for our Lodge. We should all be thankful we have such caring members in our Lodge. Without listing their names, they and you know of whom I speak. Thank you, *Brethren*.

We are getting the *Alpha* out unusually early this month and by the time this issue hits your home, and possibly even your computer via the internet, we may have already had 1-2 Entered Apprentice degrees at the Lodge, celebrated the Golden Trowel Award with our honoree, Mark Sandler, PM, held the 9th Annual Sam Houston Lecture with Dr. Margaret Jacob as our guest lecturer and even held a Masonic information night at the Lodge. As you know on Saturday, March 25, 2006, we had the **9th Annual Sam Houston Lecture**, with our guest lecturer, **Dr. Margaret C. Jacob**, Distinguished Professor of History at UCLA, who presented a PowerPoint presentation on the topic *"Masonic Secrecy and the Paradox at the Heart of Modernity."* We also made arrangements with the publisher for Dr. Jacob's new book, *"The Origins of Freemasonry: Facts & Fiction,"* to be available for sale at a discount. Last month, on March 15, 2006, we honored, i.e. toasted and roasted, Bro. **Mark Sandler**, PM, this year's recipient of the **Golden Trowel Award**. We also had a Masonic Information Night on March 13, 2006, put on by Bro. Harry Madiera, PM.

Continued on page 2

Continued from last month... Four or five months later on some afternoon in February, a month after half of my company had been laid-off the month before, I actually made it to that back door. I figured in the current economic state, it was never a bad thing to meet new people or make new friends. I walked in the door, found Luther and proceeded to meet the general cast of characters, and was told to stay for dinner. Dinner was pretty good and so I decided it couldn't be all bad and figured it wouldn't be a bad thing to come back.

So, I remember attending dinner at the lodge for several weeks. I asked for additional information and in general did everything I could to get myself invited to join the fraternity. Well, as we should all know, invitations don't really show up, you have to ask for a petition. Well, it was about a month and a couple weeks before someone explained that to me. So once that happened, I asked for a petition and got a few signatures from the guys I had been mooching food off of for the past couple of months.

Through the standard procedure I waited while my petition was read, and investigation committee was assigned and the interviews done.

I don't remember all my interviewers, but I do remember that Jack McCain came to my house and we had a nice conversation and got the form filled out. He was my first interviewer and someone that I don't believe that I had met before during my various visits. I remember thinking that I was about sunk when he asked if I had used profanity. My answer was "when the occasion called for it".

Then the "moral turpitude" question was raised; not fully knowing exactly what that meant, I answered "no". In general, I consider myself a very moral person, but "turpitude" didn't sound good, but I wasn't really sure what it meant, and so I was a little concerned that I might have answered that wrong. I was even more worried that "moral turpitude" in the Masonic sense meant that I didn't indulge in the occasional adult beverage or something along those lines. I was hoping that Mr. McCain (at the time, now Brother McCain) would have seen the obvious displays of alcohol present and asked a follow up question if there was any doubt.

So beyond that one stressful interview the rest went pretty well. On the night of my initiation, I met my initiation "brother", Gregg Wood. We both went through the same night. I think that I will always think of having a more special brotherly bond with Gregg for that reason. In college, I was a trainer, and every trainer that came in with you during your year became your brother or sister, and more me on some level that is how I viewed that initiation night.

When I was being prepared, I was going through the routine and at one point, was told that I could put all my stuff in some hidden area. I looked at the Master of Ceremonies and said "If you can't trust a Mason, who can you trust." and left my valuables out in the open. I figured that if Masonry was going to test me on that night, I could test Masonry, and so I did.

Continued on Page 3

Congratulations to our two newest members, recently raised as Master Masons, **Bros. Kurt Kasper** and **Sammy Peters**. We look forward to seeing them both in the Lodge room. Congratulations also to our newest affiliated member, Bro. Larry Batchelor, and our Lodge continues to follow Larry's son, Ray, as he serves in Iraq. It was great to see Ray at our recent meeting and to receive his regimental coin. He still carries his Holland Lodge token with him at all times in the service. Thank you for your service, Ray, and good luck to you and all our men and women who are serving our country.

This month please make plans on attending the **4th Annual HL #1 Scholarship and Lamar Awards Program** on Monday, April 24, 2006. We will honor a college bound high school senior and for the first time in many years at Holland we will award two Lamar Medals for work in public education. The scholarship and Lamar awards program will be on **Wednesday evening, April 26, 2006**.

Bros. Andy Deas and **Marvin Peterson** are again targeting Monday, April 17, 2006, for another **Third Monday Program** this year. The first two programs have been uplifting and informative.

Houston Chapter #385 of the Order of the Eastern Star, which meets at Holland, has announced a **Calendar Dinner for Saturday, May 6, 2006**, for the purpose of raising money to purchase an **ice machine** for the kitchen and dining room. The ice machine will be available to not only the Chapter, but also Holland and all the other Masonic bodies who meet at our Lodge. Holland voted at its March Stated meeting to purchase a table of tickets as a donation to the cause and several members, including me, are buying additional tickets. Larry Batchelor and I have volunteered to help Worthy Matron **Sandy Kelly** in the kitchen and the \$8.00 tickets will get you a terrific roast beef dinner. I will get more details to you next month, but this is a good cause and as all current and former stewards of Holland will tell you, a new ice machine will be a great help in the kitchen. I hope you will attend and support this cause.

Remember, if you have not already done so, please get your email addresses to the **Alpha** editor so that he can get you on the **e-Alpha** e-mailing program. We are in the process of getting it set up and it will speed up getting the **e-Alpha** to you at home or office. Please furnish your current address to the Secretary. When this program is started, we will be able to email you the **e-Alpha**.

We continue to have a great deal of work at Lodge, with a couple of more EA degrees and a looming FC and MM degree. We need our members as participants in degrees and as instructors. Your active participation is essential in helping our candidates through the learning process and to become a Master Mason. We have several more activities planned before the end of this Masonic year and your attendance and participation are both helpful and necessary.

Please let us hear from you on how you can participate and help. See you at Lodge soon! **Fraternally, Tom Behrman, W.M.**

From the South Continued

Needless to say, I think Masonry is still testing each and every one of us. It challenges us to be better people in an increasingly cynical world. It encourages trust when we might find it hard to trust. Masonry also challenges us to interpret it's lessons in an ever changing world and to evolve the timeless lessons into a present context. For me it is a journey of self-realization that will never finish. I look forward to how I will interpret these lessons 10, 20 and 30 years from now and time permitting maybe more.

Fraternally, Patrick Porter, J.W.

Your Alpha is available on line at
www.HollandLodge.org

Don't be left out...send me an email so that you can be added to our email distribution list for the e-Alpha and other Lodge notices.

sessumsjr@gmail.com

HONORS TO HOLLAND

Holland Lodge No. 1 is honored by the following members, our newest **Master Masons**, affiliated member and this year's recipient of the **Golden Trowel Award**. These reflect the highest honors a Lodge can be bestowed upon a new member and an existing member. Congratulations to the following members of Holland Lodge.

Holland Lodge No. 1 honors our Brethren

Bro. **Fred Kurtis Kasper**, Houston, Texas,
raised on February 15, 2006

Bro. **Samuel Harris Peters**, Houston, Texas,
raised on March 1, 2006.

Congratulations to our newest
Golden Trowel Award recipient:

Bro. **Mark J. Sandler, PM**, Houston, Texas,
honored by Holland Lodge No. 1, A.F. & A.M.
on March 15, 2006;

And congratulations to our newest
Golden Trowel Award recipient:

Bro. **Larry A. Batchelor**, Houston, Texas

Lodge Activities/Calendar

April, 2006 —

April 2 Sunday - {**Daylight Savings Time begins**}
April 3 Monday - EA & FC SOI, certificate work; EA Degree practice
April 5 Wednesday - EA Degree
April 10 Monday - **Dark**
April 12 Wednesday - **HL #1 April Stated Meeting**
April 17 Monday - **3rd Monday Program**; EA & FC SOI; degree practice, certificate work
April 19 Wednesday - EA & FC SOI, certificate work; Degree practice, or Degree
April 24 Monday - EA & FC SOI, certificate work; Degree practice, or Degree
April 26 Wednesday - **4th Annual HL #1 Scholarship and Lamar Awards Program**

May, 2006 —

May 1 Monday - EA & FC SOI, certificate work; degree practice
May 3 Wednesday - EA & FC SOI, certificate work; degree practice, or Degree
May 6 Saturday - **Calendar Dinner @ Holland Lodge** (Houston Chapter #385, OES)
May 8 Monday - **Dark**
May 10 Wednesday - **HL #1 May Stated Meeting (Past Masters' Night)**
May 14 Sunday - {**Mother's Day**}
May 15 Monday - MM Degree practice
May 17 Wednesday - Master Mason's Degree
May 29 Monday - **Memorial Day - HOLIDAY [Lodge Dark]**

Officers Of Holland Lodge No. 1

		<u>HOME</u>	<u>OFFICE</u>	<u>e-mail</u>
Worshipful Master	Tom Behrman	713- 721-6003	713-339-9420	WorshipfulMaster@HollandLodge.org
Senior Warden	Duncan Chapman	281- 447-8200	832- 212-3181	SeniorWarden@HollandLodge.org
Junior Warden	Patrick Porter	713- 796-1131	713- 316-4961	JuniorWarden@HollandLodge.org
Treasurer	Emile A. Bussemey	713- 729-1348	713- 260-7453	Treasurer@HollandLodge.org
Secretary	Phillip von Stephens	713- 723-2009	713-723-2009	Secretary@Hollandlodge.org
Chaplain	Max Bernstein	713- 667-5697	713-667-5697	Max.bernstein@lswc.net
Senior Deacon	Eugene Wright	281-593-1867	281-592-6446	SeniorDeacon@HollandLodge.org
Junior Deacon	Wael Semaan	713-530-9786	713-530-9786	JuniorDeacon@HollandLodge.org
Senior Steward	Michael Orr	713-290-1934	713-613-2830	SeniorSteward@HollandLodge.org
Junior Steward	Charlie Dreizin	713-524-7039	713-524-7039	JuniorSteward@HollandLodge.org
Marshal	Collin Keel	713-799-2735	713-942-8000	Marshall@HollandLodge.org
Mstr. Of Ceremonies	Duke Keller	281-497-6019	281-589-9010	MasterCeremonies@HollandLodge.org
Musician	Rodney Elliot	713- 236-0359	713-236-0359	Rodney@CommerceStreet.org
Tiler	Budd Baumgardner	713- 666-3625	713-666-3625	Tiler@Hollandlodge.org
Immediate PM	Earl A Thompson, III	713-466-8452	281-893-0550	eat003@wans.net

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