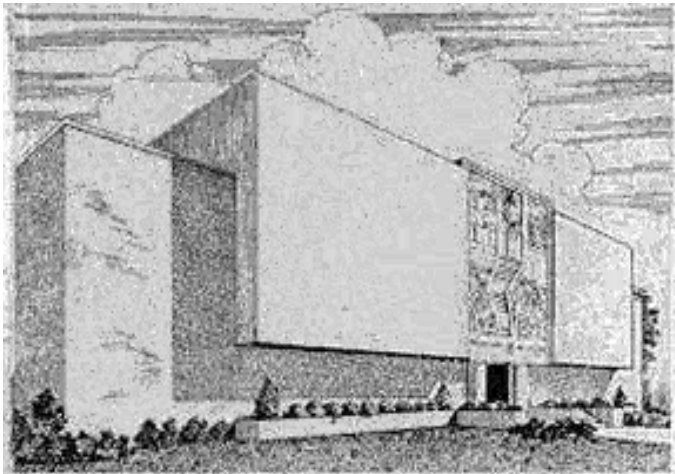


The Alpha

Holland Lodge No. 1 A.F. & A.M.
4911 Montrose Boulevard,
Houston TX 77006
(713) 529-0912
www.hollandlodge.org
August 2005
Volume 36 Number 2
Bill Sessums, Jr. P.M. – Editor



Stated Meeting

August 10, 2005

Dinner at 6:30 P.M.

Lodge opens at 7:30 P.M.

Program: A Visit and Short Workshop Presented by our
DDGM, R.: W.: Patrick D. Mahoney, et al

Also, Remember:

The 4th Annual Holland Lodge #1 Brisket – Barbecue Sale
to benefit our College Scholarship Program
Saturday, October 22, 2005

Ask to be involved,
Seek opportunities to participate
and
Know you are building your Lodge!
But most of all,
Come on Down to the Lodge!



Tom Behrman, Worshipful Master

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

Brethren, the July 13, 2005, Stated Meeting, the first for the newly elected and appointed Officers of Holland Lodge #1, was prefaced by a wonderful presentation of our 3rd Annual Holland Lodge #1 College Scholarship to 18 year old **Eric V. Kimble**, a 2005 graduate of the HISD High School for the Performing and Visual Arts the outstanding arts magnet school known throughout the country as “HSPVA.” Eric is graduating as a Texas Scholar and will be attending Prairie View A&M University majoring in business starting this fall. A truly heartwarming story and a deserving scholarship recipient, Eric attended public school, worked two jobs putting himself through school, at various times took care of his sister and her four children, or his mother and or his grandparents, while hardly missing a day of school. He is an accomplished guitarist, plays in a band and performs at his church as well. Holland Lodge #1 is again fortunate to help a dedicated student, in true need, to advance himself in higher education. Because of our brisket barbecue sales last year we were able to fund a \$2,500.00 scholarship this year and, hopefully, our efforts this upcoming year will result in our being able to award two college scholarships to two different, outstanding and deserving students in need of our help. In talking with Eric, his school counselor, teachers and sponsors, as well as his family and friends, every member of Holland Lodge should feel good that this is a deserving young man who probably would not have been able to afford college without our assistance.

It has been great this past year to partner with our neighborhood high school, HSPVA, to place a college scholarship. Throughout the history of Masonry in Texas, our fraternity has been a strong supporter of public education. Hopefully, this upcoming year we can award two college scholarships and involve another neighborhood school in addition to HSPVA. HSPVA has been frequently recognized throughout the Nation and the State of Texas for its outstanding performing and visual arts students, faculty and enriched curriculum. It is one of the highest ranking schools in the state for its academic performance as well. Our partnership with HSPVA is a truly rewarding relationship for our Lodge and I look forward to extending the relationship to yet another HISD high school.

Be sure to mark your calendars for **Saturday, October 22, 2005**, for the **4th Annual Holland Lodge #1 Brisket Barbecue Sale**. This sale directly underwrites our annual scholarship program and needs your support and participation. Do not eat too much barbecue over the summer and save up for the next barbecue brisket and lunch sale.

At our Stated Meeting this month our D.D.G.M., R.: W.: Patrick D. Mahoney, P.M., will be making a second visit to Holland Lodge and it is my understanding that he will be putting on an abbreviated version of the Randall Briscoe Masonic Workshop as well as updating us on the Grand Lodge of Texas. I know he has asked Bro. Brack Jones to come over from Beaumont to assist and I am sure that they will be putting on an informative and enlightening program.

I want to thank Bros. Andy Deas and Marvin Peterson for stepping forward to again organize and put on the Third Monday Programs at Holland.

Continued on page 2

“From the South”

Symbolism. A significant part of our craft, yet completely left up to the interpreter. Take for instance a small story about a trip up to NYC. I was being given a tour of the Grand Lodge of New York when a lady asked what the letter “G” meant. A Mason in the tour turned to her and explained that it stood for “God”.

The tour guide in the gentlest manner told the Mason that where he grew up (in Costa Rica) it didn’t stand for “God”. “God” in Spanish is spelled “Dios”. That the “G” stood for “Geometry”. His reasoning was that the English speakers in the world did not have an exclusive claim to Masonry. Masons existed in every country in the world and in those countries and the languages that were spoken in those lodge rooms rarely did God begin with a “G”. Geometry, being Latin-based in its derivation is going to be better recognized in most of the western languages.

I was in the back of the group silently thinking that as with most things we sometimes do not realize that the world exists much beyond our shores and borders. Masonry was there to provide another lesson in humility which is so important in keeping our egos in check and providing an instance where I could improve myself.

I realized that just because I had the perception that something was “right”, it did not mean that it was guaranteed to be “right”; and that more than likely, if I stepped outside of the problem, another “right” answer might present itself. Sometimes, in life and in the challenges that we face, we are so comfortable in our own sandboxes that we forget that we are members of a larger community and need to think outside ourselves and admit our own fallibility when playing in larger and larger sandboxes.

Fraternally, Patrick Porter, J.W.

**Tired of paying dues every year?
Did you know you can get an
Endowed Membership
in Holland Lodge for a
one time payment of only \$500!**

From the East continued...

I have met with Andy, as Chairman of the Committee, and his Third Monday committeeman, Marvin, to discuss these programs and they are already planning for at least four programs this year, with the first being tentatively scheduled for October, 2005, and the second for, January, 2005, probably the week after the Martin Luther King holiday. This is an outstanding speaking and dialogue series that generally takes place in the comfort of our Lodge Lounge with speakers and topics of broad interest to all Masons and Holland Lodge members in general. Thank you again, Andy and Marvin.

I wanted to comment on the matter of Masonology at Holland Lodge #1. I have asked Bro. Thomas Jefferson “Jeff” Burnett, PM, for his input in this area which has been missing of late at Lodge. I asked Jeff for a few topics in Masonology in which I could interest some of our Brethren, particularly recently raised Master Masons, to make short presentations of 5-7 minutes on at the Lodge, or to put into an article in the *Alpha*. A couple of days after our conversation he sent me a massive list of numerous topics and questions for either research or a short presentation or paper. The topics range from words, ritual, ceremony, history and doctrine to pure corporate masonry. Jeff has informed me that all the information can be found in our own Holland Lodge #1 Library, one of our greatest treasures. With only a brief period of research, including perhaps a dialogue or two with Bro. Jeff, you can master a topic for a short talk at Holland or paper in the *Alpha*. In the coming weeks I will be asking some of our Brethren to take on this project in order to bring more Masonology back to the Lodge. Please contact me if you are interested in working on this project.

If you remember two years ago we had a caravan of members and their families go down to Galveston for a shrimp boil with the members and families of Harmony Lodge #6. I have contacted the current Worshipful Masters of both Harmony Lodge #6 and Tucker Lodge #297 and have extended an invitation to come to Holland in September for another shrimp boil. We are shooting for Saturday, September 17, 2005. We had so much fun last time I felt it was time to extend our Houston and Holland hospitality to our Brethren and their families from Galveston. It is our turn to host our Galveston friends and neighbors from Harmony and Tucker at our Lodge in Houston. More details later, but get ready for some good eat’n. So be on the lookout at Lodge, in the calendar and in the next *Alpha* for the 2nd Great Galveston-Houston Shrimp Boil at Holland Lodge #1. This will of course be a family event and a great way to spend a football Saturday.

By the way, have you seen any of the Officers wearing one of those new, navy blue Holland Lodge #1 short sleeve knit shirts, with the terrific looking logo? Are you interested? If so, ask the Worshipful Master, who knows where you can get your own. A pretty neat shirt to wear to a shrimp boil, no? See you at Lodge soon.

Fraternally, Tom Behrman

From the Secretary

As I grow old, I hope I'll grow more mellow,
Less quick to criticize the other fellow.
More generous too; I'll know the joy of giving,
Hand on my treasures, simplify my living.
I'll burn my souvenirs of old romances,
Tie up the loose ends of my frayed finances.
I'll write my will; I'll regulate my diet,
Cut out late hours and lead a life more quiet.
Hunt up a home where lone old ladies gather,
In lavender and lace, discussing woes and weather.
Sometime I'll have to face these questions weightily,
But not today, for you see; I'm only eighty.
Author Unknown.

If you have an e-mail address but you are not receiving periodic notices of called meetings and special events send an email to secretary@hollandlodge.org and we will add you to the e-mail list. Until next month stay safe, healthy and happy.

Phillip von Stephens, Secretary

Be sure you visit

www.HollandLodge.org

For the Latest Pictures, Masonic News, Masonic Links and the Most Up to date schedule as well as the e-Alpha!

The Life Cycle

We will miss our departed Brothers...

**Dan E. Walton
James W. Russell**

Masonic Funeral Services

Have you considered how you would like to be remembered when the Great Architect of the Universe calls you home?

Many Masons take for granted that their Family or Lodge will automatically have a Masonic Funeral Service. Unless you let your family know your desires it is very unlikely that your Lodge be a part of your service.

The Masonic Service is done along with your religious service and as at the pleasure of your family.

If you want to have some of your Brethren there when that inevitable day comes please notify the Secretary of your Lodge. As Masons we are obligated to care for our Brethren's Widows and Children and lending a caring hand or shoulder at your funeral service is just the beginning of showing our support for one another.

Lodge Activities/Calendar

August, 2005

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August 1 Monday - EA & FC SOI
August 3 Wednesday - Certificate/SOI
August 8 Monday - **Dark**
August 10 Wednesday - **HL #1 August Stated Meeting**
August 15 Monday - Degree practice, for EA degree
August 17 Wednesday - EA Degree
August 22 Monday - Certificate/SOI; or Degree practice
August 24 Wednesday - EA Degree; or EA & FC SOI
August 22 Monday - Certificate/SOI; or Degree practice
August 24 Wednesday - **Dark**

September, 2005

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September 5 Monday - Labor Day - **HOLIDAY** [Lodge **Dark**]
September 7 Wednesday - EA & FC SOI
September 12 Monday - **Dark**
September 14 Wednesday - **HL #1 September Stated Meeting**

Officers Of Holland Lodge No. 1

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Worshipful Master	Tom Behrman	713- 721-6003	713-503-1472	WorshipfulMaster@HollandLodge.org
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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	713-973-6766	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	713-516-0698	eat003@wans.net

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