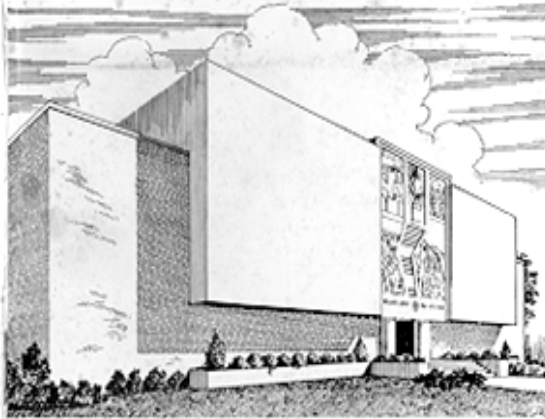


# The Alpha

**Holland Lodge No. 1 A.F. & A.M.**  
**4911 Montrose Boulevard,**  
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**August 2008**  
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**Bill Sessums, Jr. P.M. – Editor**



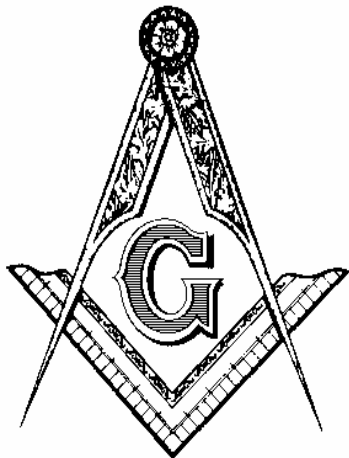
## **The Next Stated Meeting**

**August 13, 2008**

**Dinner at 6:30 p.m.**

**Lodge opens at 7:30 p.m.**

**Please join us for a Dinner and  
our July Stated Meeting**



## **From the East**

The installation of Holland Lodge Officers took place on the twelfth of July, as planned. The entire process took about an hour and went very smoothly. All of the officers were installed except for one who was called out of the city on business. He will be installed at the next stated meeting. After the installation everyone moved downstairs to the dining room and enjoyed a very nice lunch. There were sixty people there or maybe more. It was a very pleasant sight to see everyone enjoying themselves as they did.

As I stood in the East for the very first time I thought back to the first days that I had begun to visit Holland Lodge. As I have mentioned in several other articles in The Alpha, I was invited to attend a stated meeting on a Wednesday night by Brother Henry Gonzalas. Several weeks after that I was invited to become a member by the then Master, Harry Madeira, which I did. I became a regular participant in the Lodge activities and was asked by Worshipful Master Patrick Mahoney if I would like to be the Junior Steward, which I accepted.

So, I became the cook for Holland Lodge. I was moved to the position of Senior Steward soon after being installed due to the fact that no one else wanted the job. That should have been a tip off as to what I had let myself in for. My first day (or night) in the kitchen I just stood there not knowing what to do because I did not know how to cook. So I stood there in the middle of the kitchen looking around at all that stuff, about which I did not have a clue how to operate (the stove, dishwasher and the whole kitchen). A few minutes later brother Tom Behrman walked in with a huge bundle of groceries and set them down on the table in the center of the room. He glanced over at me, standing there like a statue and began to pour water in a very large pot and proceeded to mix what turned out to be sauce for the pasta he was about to put in the boiling water. In about forty-five minutes he stepped back and observed all that he had done. During the time he was working I don't think he said a word to me as I watched in amazement. It started to smell very much like an Italian restaurant in there! He then turned around and headed for the door. As he exited the kitchen he looked over his shoulder and said, "there, that's how we do that!" And he was gone. The rest of the year went well as I began to learn how to cook for thirty to one hundred and fifty people. I discovered in the Holland Lodge kitchen that it is much easier to cook for fifty people than it is for two. (Easier to cover mistakes)

During my second year at Holland Lodge the Master asked several of the principal officers to give a presentation regarding the future of Holland Lodge. Where they thought the Lodge and Freemasonry were headed. The officers stood at the lectern and gave their opinions. Well, I have to tell you it was doom and gloom! Holland Lodge and the Craft in general would cease to exist in a very few short years. The reason for this was that we were all so old that we would all be dead before long. They explained that the average age of the membership was seventy some odd years. I myself was in my mid-sixties. We needed to bring some younger men into the fraternity.

So we continued to meet and have our meals and sit in lodge together. (And get older.) Then, one evening, during diner Patrick Porter showed up. I could not see one gray hair on his head. I was on his investigating committee. I asked the several questions on the application, one of which was could he read and write the English language. He being a graduate of Rice University I knew what the answer would be. He of course said that he could. As you all know Bro. Porter is our Jr. Past Master.

Soon, other young men began to appear. Some of them alone, some in the company of their fathers or uncles, or with a friend who was a Mason. Most of these men moved through the degrees with ease. Almost all of them had recently graduated from different universities around the country. They being accustomed to memorizing and retaining that which they had learned, that which had been so difficult for me seemed almost child's play to them.

Continued on page 3

## *Greetings From the South*

### Tolerance or Fraternity?

In these days of such sharp national political division, we find the opposing sides fueling the disharmony with moral and religious piety and posturing of such a malevolent nature that one wonders, not only of the combatants' particular personal moral and religious foundations, but of their judgment in wielding such weapons with such certitude.

We should be ever mindful of our institution's excellent tenets and traditions, endeavoring to maintain our duties, not only to our own beliefs, but never encroaching upon the just privileges of others who may be following another path or holding to other spiritual or scriptural understandings.

The most important impact that Freemasonry has had throughout the ages on human relationships is our clear and uncompromising understanding that all humanity is comprised of brothers and sisters of one family who are to actively participate in mutual aid, support and protection with love and respect.

In considering the above I was reminded of a short piece written by a respected Masonic author:

"Of no one age, Masonry belongs to all time; of no one religion, it finds great truths in all. Indeed, it holds that truth which is common to all elevating and benign religions, and is the basis of each; that faith which underlies all sects and over-arches all creeds, the sky above and the river bed below the flow of mortal years. It is not a religion, still less a cult, but it is a worship in which all men may unite, that each may share the faith of all. It does not seek to undertake to explain or dogmatically to settle those great mysteries which out-top human knowledge. Beyond the facts of faith it does not go. With the subtleties of speculation concerning these truths, and the unworldly envies growing out of them, it has not to do. There divisions begin, and Masonry was not made to divide men, but to unite them. It asks not for tolerance, but for fraternity, leaving each man free to think his own thought and fashion his own system of ultimate truth. Therefore, all through the ages it has been, and is today, a meeting place of differing minds and a prophecy of the final union of all reverent and devout souls."

Joseph Fort Newton

Let us all take to heart and benefit from the great virtues and tenets of our excellent institution this year.

**Sincerely and Fraternally,  
Bob Welch, JW Holland Lodge No. 1**

## HISTORICAL BRETHERN

By T.J. Burnett, Jr., P.M.

Dr. James Anderson, DD was a Scotty from Aberdeen and an opportunist from London. He wrote a cadre of non-Masonic papers and two "blockbuster" Masonic tones. His life was full in serving his church, the Scottish Protestant Church, and on January 30, 1715 he delivered a sermon, which he dedicated to his old mentor, the Rev. Daniel Williams, defending Presbyterians during the Civil War.

The Rev Dr. Anderson arrived in London in his 29th year with a plan. He gathered together several Presbyterians, leased a house in London, created a church and became known as "Bishop Anderson". His life as a Presbyterian Minister started back home at Marischal College where he received the degree of Doctor of Divinity in 1708.

Just when and where he was invested with the Freemasonic Degrees is not known but his father was Master and Secretary of Aberdeen Lodge, which may provide a clue James's interest and Masonic career. After all he was a mature 29 years when he departed for London.

The year 1718 was pivotal for both the newly formed Grand Lodge and for the opportunistic Brother James Anderson. How he came to know and be known by the gentry leadership of Grand Lodge is not clear. Perhaps it was being at the right place at the right time. Non-the-less the Hon. George Payne was elected Grand Master on St. John's day in June and thereupon called for "any old writings and records concerning Masons and Masonry-be brought to Grand Lodge".

In 1721 the Duke of Montagu was in the chair, found fault with all the old Gothic Constitutions and, on September 29, 1721, "ordered Bro. James Anderson to digest the same in a new and better method". By December Bro. Anderson gave Grand Lodge the completed manuscript, which was approved by 14 learned brethren the following March and printed on January 17, 1723.

That date is a keeper! The 1723 Constitutions was not just the very first Masonic book but the most important Masonic book ever published. Anderson would revise it in 1738. He told Grand Lodge that "he had spent some thoughts upon some alterations and additions that might fittly be made to the same which is now ready to lay before the Grand Lodge for their approbation—".

Wor. Brother Anderson attended Grand Lodge on a regular bases and on several occasions served as an officer. The last was April 6, 1738, the year his second Constitutions was approved.

A year later, on May 28, 1739 he died. An unusual but fitting story of his Masonic funeral appeared in the London Daily Post on June 21, 1739.

Wor. Brother James Anderson provided the fraternity of Freemasons a rule of conduct and procedure still in use after some 300 years. Perhaps the fanciful history which came along for the ride can be enjoyed and largely ignored at the same time.

**Stated Meetings are held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month.**

**August 13, 2008, September 10, 2008 and October 8, 2008 are the next three.**

**Please be sure to check the website at [www.HollandLodge.org](http://www.HollandLodge.org) for updates & announcements.**

**There are Degrees and Proficiency Exams taking place on a regular basis...if you would like know when, please check the website or call or email your Officers.**

## From the Secretary

Subject: Suspended members of Holland Lodge. If you know these brethren please give them a call and encourage them to pay their dues. They are Ronald C. Babin, John C. Boyce, Robert B. Carpenter Jr., James L. Goettee Sr., Robert N. Kerzee, Michael T. Steffen, and Edward S. Topek.

CABUL. What did Hiram King of Tyre receive for his part in the building of the Temple?

A country in Galilee was given to Hiram King of Tyre, by Solomon, as a reward for his assistance in building the temple. The history of this event is given in the degree of Intimate Secretary of the Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite. The reward was twenty cities; and when Hiram King of Tyre came out of Tyre to see these cities that Solomon had given him, he said what cities (are) these which thou has given me, my brother? And he called them the land of Cabul (meaning displeasing) even unto this day.

### *From the East continued...*

On the 14th of July Brother Michael Meirer invited a group of young men from the Houston Chapter of DeMolay to visit our lodge room and meet the new Master of Holland Lodge. I had recently witnessed their instillation ceremony and I knew some of these boys. They appeared in the lodge room before our meeting began. I invited them to enter and to assemble before the Master's station which they did. As I looked down at these boys from my station I could see our future, and our future leaders, future Masters and probably some future fine cooks as well. Three of these young men were already Entered Apprentice Masons and well on their way. As I looked down at these young DeMolays I could see they were somewhat awe struck by the man standing before them in the East wearing a dark business suit and black fedora. As I looked into their eyes I saw myself. I saw myself standing before the Master of Park Place Lodge as he offered words of wisdom, which have influenced me until this day. That was more than fifty-five years ago. And that's another story.

**Jerry Brainard Jones, Worshipful Master, Holland Lodge**



## The New Flag Pole at Holland Lodge

The Brothers involved in the installation of the flag pole were Barry Podwin, Roy Gal-Barefoot workman Kurt Kasper-Shod workman Matt Murphy Mark Miller-Hiram Abiff Bob Welch Duncan Chapman-working tools Jerry Grizzle-Kig Soloman Dennis Hughes The flag pole was delivered by Past Master and Past Potentate always willing to help aid and assist Brother Mark Miller, The cost of the equipment he provided for the delivery and installation was in the hundreds of dollars! We should show Brother Miller some appreciation and give him the "Hiram Abiff Award" for his dedication to this project. Let us not forget to thank Potentate Jerry Grizzle for allowing us to have this flag pole and Brother Dennis Hughes for excavating it from its original location.

The Brethren assembled at Holland at 6 p.m. August 1st, The picnic canopy, the music, the cold water and drinks were set up on the front lawn, man it was hot! We had many visitors stopping to see what was taking place. Bro. Marvin Peterson came by, looked over the project, commented that it was about time Holland had a flag pole. Now, a little ditty from me to you.

At 6PM with the proper tools the excavation was started. Before starting the Brethren assembled around the site. A solemn dedication to the future of our lodge was started with a prayer. This great and laudable undertaking, started with a prayer Asking blessing from the Supreme Architect above With wisdom strength and brotherly love The workman from the Temple were Barefoot, and Shod A mixture of men Blessed by their on personal God. All having learned from Masonic Lore Working with freedom Fervency and Zeal The workman turned a rough Ashlar Into a perfect Ashlar and more BY The use of the Plumb, Level and Square from a hole in the ground As if by magic A flag pole was standing there! We should have a dedication ceremony and a flag raising. Never, Never let anyone tell you that the excavation of a 4x4 by 4 foot deep hole is and easy task. It took 7 workman working unstop 3 1/2 hours. Brother Gal, Brother Kasper, Brother Welch, Brother Murphy are to be commended for there hard work. Thanks Guys.

**Duncan Chapman, DDGM, P.M.**

The youths of Houston Chapter DeMolay, #201 REALLY appreciate the warm send-off given to them by Holland Lodge on Wednesday evening July 16th as they prepared to travel to the graded degree competitions held during a statewide Conclave in Austin, TX.

In the 2008 CONCLAVE RITUAL Houston Chapter #201 won first or second in every ritual event in which they competed.

## Officers Of Holland Lodge No. 1

		<u>HOME</u>	<u>OFFICE</u>	<u>e-mail</u>
Worshipful Master	Jerry Jones	713-667-2817	713-201-0366	Worshipfulmaster@hollandlodge.org
Senior Warden	Kurtis Kasper	832-216-3519	713-348-3027	Seniorwarden@hollandlodge.org
Junior Warden	Robert Welch	713-526-0029	713-941-7800	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	Henry Gonzales	281-799-2045		Chaplain@hollandlodge.org
Senior Deacon	Michael Meier	713-729-6426	713-529-0912	Seniordeacon@hollandlodge.org
Junior Deacon	Ronald Adams	713-681-7359	713-882-3823	Juniordeacon@hollandlodge.org
Senior Steward	Barry Podwin	713-723-5883	281-728-1310	SeniorSteward@hollandlodge.org
Junior Steward	Michael Enmon	281-213-8606	281-728-1310	JuniorSteward@hollandlodge.org
Marshal	Nicolas Evanoff			Marshal@hollandlodge.org
Mstr. Of Ceremonies	Carl Reiley		713-645-7200	Masterofceromonies@hollandlodge.org
Musician	Rodney Elliott	713-236-0359	713-236-0359	Musician@hollandlodge.org
Tiler	Budd Baumgardner	713-666-3625	713-666-3625	None
Immediate P M	Patrick Porter	713-796-1131	713-294-3704	ImmediatePM@hollandlodge.org

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