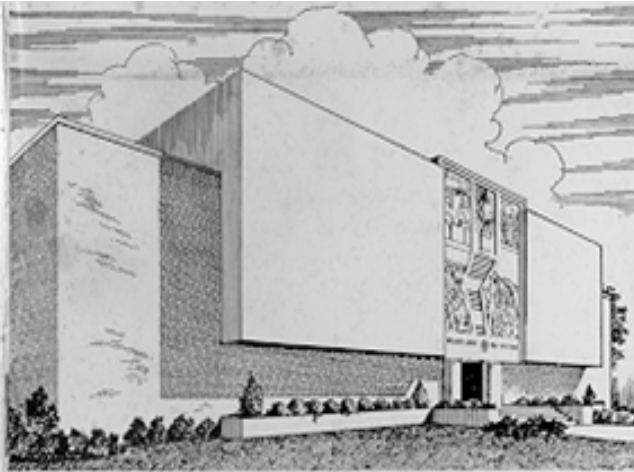


## **THE e-ALPHA**

Holland Lodge No. 1 A.F. & A.M.  
4911 Montrose Boulevard, Houston TX 77006  
(713) 529-0912 www.hollandlodge.org  
February 2004  
Volume 34 Number 8  
Bill Sessums, Jr. P.M. – Editor



### **STATED MEETING**

**February 11, 2004**  
**Dinner at 6:30 P.M.**  
**Lodge opens at 7:30 P.M.**

**Visiting and sojourning brethren are welcome**

**The Program will be the  
Presentation of 50 year Service Awards**

**Make Plans to be at the  
Seventh Annual Sam Houston Lecture**

**Will be sponsored by Holland Lodge  
on May 15, 2004.**

**Speaker: Wor. Brother Nelson King, FPS, BF  
Editor of the Philalethes Magazine**

**Will discuss  
BLACK AND WHITE  
A HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT OF  
PRINCE HALL MASONRY IN TEXAS**

**Details in next Alpha**

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

WOW! What a month Holland Lodge has had. If I could repeat the many compliments and praise's Holland received when the Members and Officers of Holland Lodge received the Grand Master on January 21, there would be little space for other items. The meeting was Tiled with 125 Brothers within the Lodge Room. The Grand Master commented that this was the largest meeting in a Blue Lodge he has ever attended. Holland should be proud of the warm reception of our many friends and visitors. Remember that the Grand Master Reese Harrison, Deputy Grand Master Elmer Murphy, and Grand Senior Deacon Tom Johnson all hail from Holland Lodge.

The dinner was spectacular with Bros. Greg Wood and Wael Semaan performed a seemingly impossible task of preparing a superb dinner with grace and ease. There were a lot of helping hands including Duncan Chapman, Earl Thompson, and several of our EAs and FCs working in the preparation too. Steaks cooked upon the grill were the order for the evening.

Bros. Senior Deacon Duncan Chapman and Bro. Patrick Porter, pro tem Junior Deacon had the chance to introduce not only all the Grand Lodge dignitaries but also many friends of Holland Lodge from Solidarity Lodge, El Campo Lodge, Sugar Land Lodge, Walter Peirson Lodge, Wharton Lodge, West University Lodge, Jacques DeMolay Lodge and several more.

Prior to the Grand Master speaking Holland Lodge presented him with a blanket/throw stitched with a picture of his Shetland sheepdog, Sam. The Grand Master was touched and spoke of his fondness for Sam and the Shetland Sheep Dog Rescue Program where he obtained Sam. Grand Master Harrison spoke on the wearing of masonic jewelry both by Masons as rings and in the crests of our rings, as well as our wives and daughters wearing a square & compass identifying them as related to a Mason. I have now given a Square & Compass to my wife and daughter-in-law to wear.

My thanks to all who helped to prepare the meal, the Officers for practicing, our instructors, Bill Sessums, Sr. and Emile Bussemey and the many members who lent a hand during the reception. But most especially to the Members of Holland Lodge who said 'Welcome to Holland Lodge' and offered their hand in friendship.

Holland is pleased to report that four of our newly Raised Master Masons completed their All Lodge Light Program under the guidance of Bill Sessums, Jr. Thanks Bill and congratulations to Wael Semaan, John Huntoon, Brad Reel and Tony Marks. These are the newest Master Masons at Holland Lodge and I urge every member to meet them and see the future of Holland Lodge, which they will become.

We did a FellowCraft Degree on January 26, which was enjoyed by all. It was enjoyed especially by our new FellowCraft Mason. Holland is planning on doing another FC Degree on Monday, February 23. The FC Team under Bro. Junior Warden Tom Behrman is becoming very good and we should take advantage to see a superb FC Degree on February 23.

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## *“From the South”*

**Behrman, On Visitation.** Brethren, as threatened in Part III of my **Lodge Courtesies** topic, in the last *Alpha*, I indicated that I might write next on the topic of **visitation**, i.e. going to other Lodges, not only in Houston, but all over the state and even out-of-state and overseas. I amazed myself in sitting down and thinking about the number of Lodges I have visited since becoming a Mason a few years ago.

I roughly count 14 or 15, for example, and not in any particular order, or significance, in Texas, **Harmony Lodge #6** (Galveston, TX), **San Jacinto Lodge #106** (Willis, TX), **Anahuac Lodge #995**, **Wharton Lodge #621**, **El Campo #918**, **Gray Lodge #329**, **Jacques DeMolay Lodge #1390** (Houston, TX), **Anson Jones Lodge #1313** (Houston, TX), **Temple Lodge #4** (Houston, TX), **East Gate Lodge #1153** (Houston, TX) **Temple Lodge #70** (Mt. Pleasant, TX), **Bellaire Lodge #1336** (Houston, TX) and 3 9 **Walter M. Pierson Lodge #13** (Houston, TX), just to name a few. I have attended stated meetings, called meetings, forums, Grand Master's Conferences, special events and awards presentations, open and closed. Each and every time I was able to enjoy the good fellowship afforded by hospitable Brethren practicing the Craft in their Lodge, with the knowledge that all Masons are welcome and can easily engage in the rituals, work and dialogue.

Two years ago for our family Summer vacation, we visited Pensacola, Florida, where my father had briefly served a stint during WWII while in the Navy. We love to visit, have camped at Fort Pickens National Park and on numerous occasions visited the Navy's Aviation Museum there. This particular summer, I decided to check the web pages of Lodges in Pensacola. On a Tuesday night I went over to **Escambia Lodge #15**, the oldest Lodge in Pensacola. Wow, what a visit and the first time out-of-state. After being investigated, I attended the monthly stated meeting. Escambia Lodge #15 was located out in the suburbs as you are about to enter Pensacola on I-10, in some rolling hills and a new subdivision. They had just moved into a brand new Lodge building, one story and huge, only a couple of years earlier. I talked with several of the Brethren who discussed what was involved in the oldest Lodge in Pensacola moving from an old 3-story building they had been in downtown for many years. Does any of this sound familiar to you, or at least as potentially happening to Holland Lodge #1 in the not to distant future? I was reassured when they described the process and how well it all worked out. I was able to see 'how they do it' in Florida. They had four Fellowcraft proficiency examinations that night, a pair at a time. I was struck by how although the story is generally the same, the wording varied here and there in many ways, more than I thought would vary. By the way, in Florida they practice the process of waiving the reading of the minutes at a meeting. They conducted an entire stated meeting, all the business, four proficiency exams and gave out service awards all in a very short period of time. It is amazing to see not only how other Lodges conduct their affairs and what activities are working, but also to see the differentiation among and between Lodges, intrastate and interstate.

At our visit with :.MW Reese L. Harrison a couple of weeks ago, and again during his visit at the Master's, Warden's and Secretaries meeting last week, the inspirational speech of the Grand Master rang home as to how the square and compass is not only a symbol for ordinary Masonic life, but he was profoundly moved to note that it was also a symbol of the unity of our fraternity, a symbol of taking care of our own. We are all bound together, the 'fellowship of the (Masonic) ring', as the award winning movie trilogy goes. The Masonic ring we wear, with the square and compasses on it, demonstrates that we are known by our symbols and bound forever in friendship. Have you ordered your Masonic jewelry lately? I went out after the speeches and am looking for a square and compasses, smaller versions, to put on a charm, pin, or other piece of jewelry, in order to show my wife, son and daughter who they can always look to for help if ever in need.

How recently have you visited a Lodge, Brethren, in the City of Houston, state of Texas, or out-of-state, and treated yourself to an enjoyable experience with your fellow Brethren, enjoying what we have found? I daresay, you are fully capable of attending a Masonic meeting somewhere in Houston almost any day of the week, day or night. I hope each of you will rededicate himself to visiting a Lodge in the very near future. Take a friend and see how other Lodges do it, what they are doing, what they are doing successfully, or not so successfully, and meet your fellow Brethren who you will be seeing at Grand Lodge and at other times for the rest of your Masonic life. Find out about their Lodge and let them know, proudly and humbly, about Holland Lodge #1, a place where Masons meet, and work, and advance the Craft, and have fun!

When are you attending, or even visiting, Holland Lodge #1 next? Very soon, I hope! I want to emphasize that there are many things going on at our Lodge, many of which are noted on our webpage and in the *Alpha*, both the printed and *e-Alpha* editions. Thank you Bros. Jeff Burnett and Bill Sessums, Jr. for all you are doing for Holland Lodge #1 and Masonry.

Next month, I may be able to report more on our recent doings at Holland Lodge #1. I want to extend another invitation for each and every one of you to come join us and attend our February, 2004, Stated Meeting this month and take part in our Lodge by your attendance. We need and solicit the dialogue with our Brethren, See you at Holland Lodge No. 1 very soon, I trust.!

Fraternally, Tom Behrman

## HOLOCAUST MUSEUM

### FREE TICKETS TO THE OLYMPICS?

Brethren of Holland Lodge, and their families and friends, **are invited to an escorted tour of the Houston Holocaust Museum following supper at the lodge on Wednesday, February 18, 2004 at 6:00 P.M.** The tour will start at the museum at 7:30 P.M. and will be led by Holland Lodge member, Brother Collin Keel, Director of Changing Exhibits for the museum.

The new exhibition is entitled *The Nazi Olympics Berlin 1936*. It demonstrates the pomp, pageantry and propaganda which were part of the game Hitler played during the XI Olympiad to disguise his racist, militaristic ideals. Did he succeed? Brother Keel will explain how the Olympics were a victory for Germany and a loss for the world.

The exhibit is on loan from the United States Holocaust Museum, Washington, D.C., and is locally underwritten by HEB and Bank One with additional assistance by Continental Airlines and KCOH Radio.

The museum is located at 5401 Caroline, one block east of San Jacinto and one block north of Binz.

## LEGAL TEAM

Worshipful Master Patrick Mahoney has authorized the formation of a Master Mason legal degree team, i.e. one composed entirely of lawyers who are members of Holland Lodge. He has ask Wor. Brother Thomas B. Johnson, Jr., Grand Senior Deacon, to chair the event. A number of Brother attorneys have been contacted and agreed to participate. Any Holland Lodge lawyer not yet contacted may telephone Wor. Bro. Johnson at (713) 528-6792 to "join the legal team." The degree will be conferred in May, 2004 on a "legal candidate" (lawyer).

All Brethren are urged to attend this remarkable event, when it occurs, to monitor the ability of these legal eagles to "please the court" of good King Solomon.

## THE LIFE CYCLE

*With Sincere Sympathy*

*Brother Walter A. Carr*

*Was lost to us on January 23, 2004*

*He was raised to the degree of Master Mason*

*In Holland Lodge on January 2, 1963*

## LODGE ACTIVITIES

February 9, 2004	Holland is Dark	March 1	EA/ FC Festival
February 11, 2004	<b>Stated Meeting and 50 year Awards</b>	March 3	<b>Receive our DDGM Mark Deikman</b>
Saturday! Feb 14	FC Graded Degree	March 8	Holland is Dark
February 16, 2004	Open Night...check web!	March 10	Stated Meeting
February 18, 2004	<b>Visit to Holocaust Museum</b>	March 15	Open –check the Web site!
February 23, 2004	Fellow Degree Practice	March 17	St Patrick's Day– all Masons are Irish Today!
February 25, 2004	EA Degree		

From the East continued...

On February 18 we will meet for dinner at Holland Lodge and go by caravan to Houston Holocaust Museum for a guided tour of the 1936 Olympics in Berlin. This will be a very informative and meaningful to everyone. This is an excellent meeting to bring family members so they can participate with us in the Museum Tour as well as have dinner with the Masons of Holland Lodge.

Each month on the first Monday, Holland Lodge is having an EA & FC Festival, where either a Degree is conferred, an exam is given or other work in the EA and FC are done. It is important to our EAs and FCs that Holland Lodge has a special night set aside for them and that Holland Lodge focuses on them. Last month our EAs and FCs performed valuable service to the building by completing the light lense replacements on the Chapter/Council side of the building. Service to our Brothers in the Craft and to our building is important for all who are Masons. Come and participate in giving of yourself to the Craft. You will receive satisfaction beyond any reward.

**Fraternally,  
Patrick D. Mahoney, Worshipful Master**

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Marshal	Walter Sanders	(713) 665-1838		Marshall@HollandLodge.org
Mstr. Of Ceremonies	Patrick Porter	(713) 796-1131	(713) 316-4961	MasterCeremonies@HollandLodge.org
Musician	Bill DeBruhl, Jr.	{Deceased}		
Tiler	Budd Baumgardner	(713) 666-3625		