

# The Alpha

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

4911 Montrose Boulevard,

Houston TX 77006

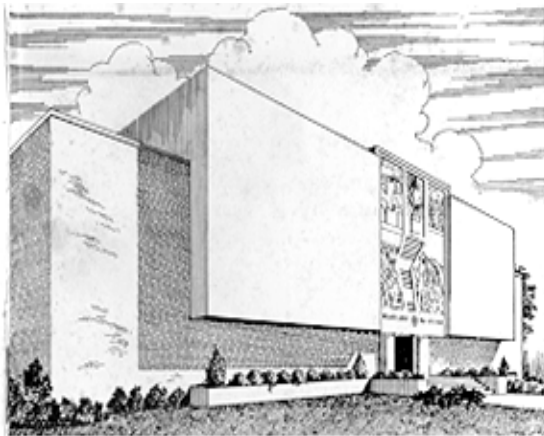
(713) 529-0912

[www.hollandlodge.org](http://www.hollandlodge.org)

February 2007

Volume 37 Number 8

Bill Sessums, Jr. P.M. – Editor



## Stated Meeting:

February 14, 2007

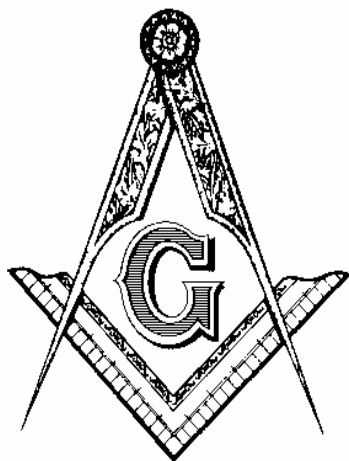
Dinner at 6:30 p.m.

Lodge opens at 7:30 p.m.

Please join us for Dinner

&

for the Stated Meeting where the  
business of Your Lodge is conducted!



## From the East...

January featured the official Visit of our new Grand Master Donny Broughton. Holland Lodge did not just say the pledge of allegiance, we opened the Lodge and Saluted our Flag, it brought a resounding goose bump and a tear to the eye and gave a tremendous start to our night. We had 260 people, a packed lodge room, and Masonry represented by nearly every part of our organization. The Eastern Star, The Shrine, The Grotto, The Commandery, The Chapter and Council, The York Rite, The Scottish Rite, The Demolay, The Masters Wardens and Secretary's Association and many Blue Lodge's were there to welcome our Grand Master. To understand what the day was like, let's back up a little bit...

The day started with a crew of Masons from Garden Oaks 1306 setting up their pit and cooking the rib-eye's, branding each and every one with a square and compass, what a hoot and masonry at its best was served up around the outdoor pit, many thanks to the guys from Garden Oaks 1306.

While that was going on the ladies of the Eastern Star # 385 were decorating the dining hall, cooking the potatoes, getting the salads prepared, making garlic bread and strawberry desert. Mike and Carolyn, Blanch, and Sandy, and Nadine what a crew and a job you did! When you see these folks please give them a hug, they deserve one. My wife, Linda, worked on pinto beans for 3 days prior to the meeting and every last bean was eaten, they were good! Thanks Linda! Other Brothers and their spouses provided delicious deserts. Our meal was served by the fine young men from the Demolays. Our Senior and Junior Steward's seemed to be everywhere, making sure things were getting done, distributing coffee, tea and water, cleaning tables and preparing them for others. The Senior and Junior Deacons were busy welcoming people, shaking hands and finding out who was there so that proper introductions could be done, Guys you were exceptional. Our Musician Brother Rodney Elliot came in and I don't think he even ate, went straight to the piano and started playing, great music and great entertainment, we are lucky to have such a talented Musician. In the meantime Martin Saldua of the Chapter and Council set up a display in the lobby and was assisting in greeting people, Thanks Martin and the Grand Master had a table set up in the lobby and was selling coins, shirts, hats, buckles and other things, I was told that it brought in a lot of money for the Grand Lodge.

After dinner we all went up to the Lodge room where Grand Master Donny Broughton, the Grand Lodge officers and the District Deputy Grand Masters were received, introductions were done and the meeting was turned over to my friend and Brother and President of the MWS Association, District Instructor Steve Orlando. Brother Orlando went right to the meat of the meeting and presented the Grand Master with all sorts of gifts from Holland, The Demolays, Garden Oaks and the MWSA. After the gift giving, hand shaking and picture taking was completed Brother Orlando turned the meeting over to our Grand Master for his remarks.

Grand Master Broughton introduced his entourage and Past Grand Master W.P. Lamb. His message included he suggestion that the ladies should support there husbands at the wardens retreat and that the husbands should see that there wives had a ladies handbook. He shared with us information about Grand Lodge fundraisers such as the credit card program and the Grand Lodge adopt a seat program. If you wish to have your name on a seat at Grand Lodge you should contact Brother Tom B Johnson. We were also briefed on the sale of the Home & School Property.

Some upcoming dates and events to be aware of are The Grand Master's conference on April 21<sup>st</sup> where EA's and FC's are welcome to attend and on October 3rd there will be a picnic at the Retirement Center open to all who wish to visit.

The Grandmaster's message was one of unity in Masonry, of bonding with our members, and the need for all Masons to support the new EA's and FC's. Grand Master Broughton asked all Fellow Crafts and Entered Apprentices to approach the East where he presented each of the FC' and EA'S with a Masonic lapel pin, shook their hands, had a picture taken, and spoke personally to each one congratulating them on the journey into masonry. I can tell you there were 20 happy smiling Masons that felt they were now more a part of the greatest fraternity on earth.

Before concluding his talk, the Grand Master spoke about being involved with all the apendent bodies and the importance of visiting other lodges, he stressed that we were one big family, that we were continually growing and changing but that one thing was certain that we all belong to one family, a family that believed in charity, a family of Brotherly love, Relief and Truth. The meeting was closed and we left knowing we were better Masons, closer friends and with the determination to work play and visit with other Masons. Once a Mason always a Mason.

**Duncan Chapman, W.M.**

## From the South...

To continue to learn the work or not continue to learn the work! That is the question! From the beginning of my Masonic career this question has been discussed over and over again. The debate has recurred time and time again as to the value of the work to the individual Mason and it's usefulness to The Craft in general. I have heard many distinguished brethren from a past Grand Master of Masons in Texas to other lessor officers who stood before different lodges and advocated that the required learning of the work should be ended because most of us forget it soon after and therefore it is useless. What is the purpose of requiring a man to learn and memorize the eighty or so questions and answers in the E.A. degree alone? Admittedly, it is very difficult to learn this work, (it was for me!) and even more so to recite it before the members present at an examination, most of whom do not remember it themselves, and could not do it again if their lives depended upon it. During the time I was learning the work (in all three degrees) I stopped many times and told myself that I would never be able to memorize all of that material, let alone recite it before the Lodge. I was told by my instructors that the questions and answers had to be recited "word perfect", and should I make a mistake I would have to reappear before the Lodge and do it all over again. To a new Entered Apprentice Mason that is a frightening thought as one can well imagine. However, due to the efforts of men like Brother Floyd Mills (sitting Master of Temple Lodge) and Brother Dennis Luster (Past Master of Temple Lodge) I learned my work, little by little. My Fellow-craft and Master's work for the most part I learned from Brother Juan Gueterrez (Past Master of Temple Lodge) who worked with me five days a week for several weeks, This brother and I met at a park near his home where we worked for two hours a day. Finally I had it! One hot August afternoon he said "okay, you've got it! Let's do it tomorrow night". And so we did!

"The work" as the questions and answers, degrees and rituals are collectively known, is one of the unbreakable common threads that bind us together into the great fraternity of which we are all a part. It is the one thing we all have in common. We have all been raised by the strong grip of a Master Mason. We have all heard The Word. We saw the light! It is no matter if we are doctors, lawyers, plumbers, retirees, real estate brokers, bankers, teachers, accountants, ditch diggers, high school dropouts or PH.d's, or what have you, we are all inextricably bound by the same sacred vows, obligations and mysteries of the order.

We must never allow the work to be removed from our midst. To learn the work demonstrates a commitment and a determination on the part of each and everyone of us. It has been said that after an examination some of us forget that knowledge to which we have been entrusted. If the lessons have been properly taught they are still there in the human mind and can never be forgotten. These lessons will continue to influence and regulate the good Mason's character and actions. One may not be able to recite this knowledge (word perfect) nor does one need to. That knowledge will always be there and because of that he will always be a part of us, and we him.

**Jerry Brainard Jones, J.W. Holland Lodge Number One, Houston, Texas**

Dear e-Brethren,

I now present to you the working tools of an e-mason. They are the mouse...the keyboard... and the modem... The mouse is an instrument used by operative e-masons to move within the desktop, the keyboard to input the data, and the modem to publish the data to cyberspace. But as we are not, however, here assembled as Computer Nerds, but rather as Speculative E-Masons, and to us these tools are downloaded as vehicles of moral significance and to show us the meaning of E-Masons.

The mouse teaches us to keep within the bounds of the screen - a square wherein which we must all meet. The Keyboard to show us that communication will lead us to a better understanding of each other, and the rest of mankind. While the Modem is to teach us that even when we are alone on the most remote part of the globe, we may meet and gain moral sustenance from each other, and thus learn more of the wonderful works of the GAOTU.

**Thanks to Patrick Mahoney, P.M. for the contribution**

### **Have you seen the building lately?**

On a bright, sunny Saturday last month I happened to drive by the Lodge property at 4911 Montrose. My wife and kids were with me and out of the blue my wife remarked about how black and dingy our building was and wanted to know "what happened?"

I explained that "Houston" had happened and that the black stains were pollution, dirt and grim that had just accumulated over the years and that we were "working" on the problem.

Normally she would not have noticed but you see, we had just been in front of the Lodge looking at the nice, shiny, clean, impressive and recently chemical washed front façade! When we turned the corner the side of the building came into view and the not so clean parts stuck out like a sore thumb!

Your Worshipful Master and Officers have been working on fund raising to complete the cleaning of the building. This is not a "restoration" project nor an attempt to "repair" the building, it is simply an effort to CLEAN up the mess that Houston has made on our building. The front was chemical washed a couple of months ago and at least the folks who drive by the front of our building are treated to a grand site of our Masonic Building!

Since this project is not for repair or restoration the W.M. would like the cost of the cleaning to be covered by contributions from our members and not from dues dollars or income from the Lodge. Please consider making a contribution to support this effort. Some of our members believe that we should just leave the building alone because some day we may sell it. As the Editor and as a Past Master of the Lodge I would simply say that we should do our part as good neighbors and good Masons to keep our house in order and clean!

If you feel that the cleaning is a worth while project and you would like to support this effort please send a contribution care of the Worshipful Master or Secretary and be sure to let them know that you would like it used to for this project. If you can't or don't want to contribute, thanks for reading all of the Editorial!

We are all proud to be Masons, let's be proud of our property!

By the way, if you want to see how good the front of our building looks simply drive by the front of our property or you can see pictures on the website at [www.HollandLodge.org](http://www.HollandLodge.org) . Just don't turn the corner!

Fraternally, Bill Sessums, Jr., P.M.

### **Did you know?**

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.:" 1K7:13.

Thanks to Phillip von Stephens for the contribution.

### **We will miss our departed Brothers...**

**Paul L Carll– passed away 11/16/2006**

**William P Traylor 12/03/2006**

**Cecil W Jacobe 8/10/2006**

**Gaines F Moore 1/11/2007**

### **Upcoming Meetings**

**February 14, 2007 Stated Meeting**

**March 14, 2007 Stated Meeting**

**April 11, 2007 Stated Meeting**

**May 9, 2007 Stated Meeting**

**June 13, 2007 Stated Meeting**

**Please check the website at  
[www.HollandLodge.org](http://www.HollandLodge.org) for updates  
and meeting announcements.**

### **From the Secretary**

**At the January Stated meeting a motion to increase the cost of our Endowed Memberships was made, amended and laid over until a vote can be taken at the February Stated Meeting. This motion will increase the cost of an Endowed Membership from \$500 to \$1,200 as of June 24, 2007.**

Our second set of dues notices was sent out in January. Please check your dues card to be sure you are current. If you have not sent in your dues, they are \$75 and are due now.

**Welcome to our newest member: Tommy J Meinecke– affiliated 1/10/2007**

### **Your Alpha needs your input!**

If you have any articles or topics you would like published in the Alpha let us know or better yet, get to typing!

## Officers Of Holland Lodge No. 1

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Worshipful Master	Duncan Chapman	281- 447-8200	832- 212-3181	dcc624@yahoo.com
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Treasurer	Emile A.Bussemey	713- 729-1348	713- 260-7453	bizme@sbcglobal.net
Secretary	Phillip von Stephens	713- 723-2009	713-723-2009	pvs@insurer.com
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Tiler	Budd Baumgardner	713- 666-3625	713-666-3625	None
Immediate PM	Tom Behrman	713- 721-6003	713-339-9420	tbehrman@mindspring.com

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