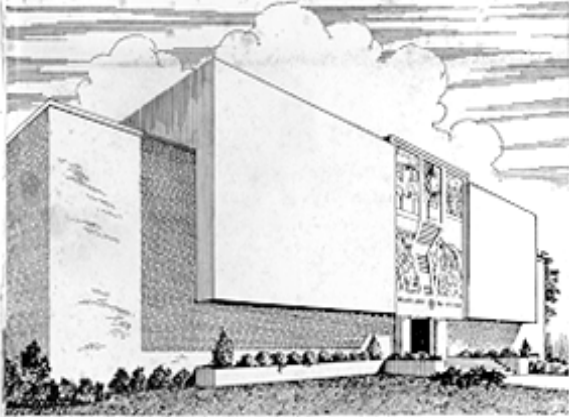


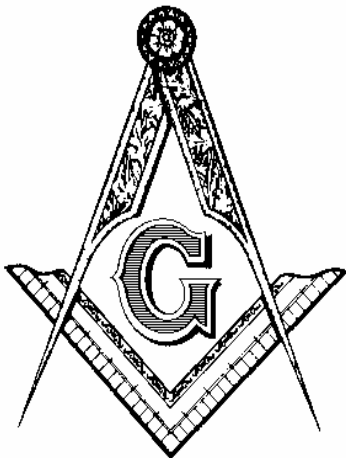
The Alpha

Holland Lodge No. 1 A.F. & A.M.
4911 Montrose Boulevard,
Houston TX 77006
(713) 529-0912
www.hollandlodge.org
February 2008
Volume 38 Number 8
Bill Sessums, Jr. P.M. – Editor



The Next Stated Meeting **February 13, 2007** **Dinner at 6:30 p.m.** **Lodge opens at 7:30 p.m.**

Please join us for a great dinner and Stated Meeting where we will have the
Official Visit of
R.: W.: Duncan C. Chapman,
District Deputy Grand Master of
Masonic District 30A.



Brethren,

Well, as I enter the downhill stretch of my term as Worshipful Master we seem to continue to pick up steam as a Lodge as a whole.

In January we received the Grand Master of Masons in Texas and it was a good night. We had a nice dinner of Chinese food which while a departure from the normal steaks seemed to go over well. I would like to extend some special thanks to Brother Jason Law who stepped forward to help in the kitchen. I know that our Junior Steward Ron has been having a few difficulties and I know that Brother Meier was glad to have the help.

The Grand Master's presentation was really meaningful. He talked about his experiences while visiting Holland Lodge over the years. It is always good to have someone visit and recount his happy experiences while being in our building and attending our lodge. It was a pleasure and an honor to hear them and I think the eighty brothers that attended felt similarly.

In February we are going to be continuing our receiving duties and extend to Right Worshipful Chapman his official greetings on his official visit to Holland Lodge. Since he is obviously one of our own it would be great if all of the brothers came out to support him. Additionally, I have been informed that the opening and closing will be graded. So, if you've ever said that Holland Lodge hasn't been opened correctly, then that night we are going to try and get as close as we can to perfection.

In March I know that we will also be receiving the District Instructor. He will be making an official visit to Holland Lodge to discuss matters near and dear to the Grand Master's heart during that meeting. No official reception, but since again, Emile is one of our own I'll make sure that there are no mushrooms in the meal that evening.

Since that administrative information has been taken care of, we can go on to more serious issues. I think that we received some good news from the Treasurer's report this January. Our taxes were down, our burn rate was slightly down and part of that is due to the increased number of degree fees being paid. I know that I receive about two emails a week about men interested in joining the fraternity. I also get emails about men who are anxious to have their investigations done so that they can hopefully continue in the process of becoming Masons.

The investigation process is an important one and I know that it takes a good amount of time to be done correctly. Right now I am generally asking for volunteers and trying to spread out the work accordingly. Brethren, if you are able and interested in helping out with some of these investigations please let me know. I know that when I was able it was something that I enjoyed. I'm proud to say that I investigated Kurt Kasper. When he asked questions, I didn't pull punches, and now we have a valuable asset contributing to the lodge and bringing in new members. The answers to those questions might have scared off other individuals, but I think that it helped set the right expectations about Masonry and as result I think he knew better what to expect. Kurt, feel free to provide a rebuttal next month if necessary.

As illuminated by the President of the MBA, again Duncan Chapman, we have a lot of new renters in the building. Those renters are helping bring in money that is reducing the amount that the four building owners need to pay out of pocket to keep the building running. Right now we are only at about 50% capacity. We can always use new renters, and our existing renters can always utilize the building more. Right now the standard rental agreement is \$550 a month for 2 meetings. This entitles you use of a lodge room and kitchen on your meeting night. Additional meetings cost the entity \$200. We have the Holland Lodge Room and the Commandry/Chapter/Council side available to rent. Both rooms are excellent places to have a meeting and conduct Masonic business. Additionally, if you are so well organized that you have more than one lodge meeting on a given night you can economize and coordinate in the kitchen further reducing cost to your lodge.

I think this is a great thing for Masonry and hopefully, if we can reach the breakeven point for the Holland Lodge building that we can save some of the ailing organizations that desperately need a place to meet.

Hopefully this new year as found you all well and that now in February that too many of your resolutions haven't been broken.

Fraternally Patrick Porter, W.M.

From the South...

Knowing that the Grand Master of all masons in Texas is making his official visit to Holland lodge on January the 16th, I took the liberty of doing a little research to find out who else uses the term **GRAND MASTER**. After surfing the web I found out that the term is used not only by masons but also used by the chess organization and it is also used in the martial arts world. And below is a little rundown on how the definition of the term varies between the different organizations.

In Freemasonry the **Grand Master** is the supreme ruler of the Craft within a given jurisdiction. He presides over his Grand Lodge and has certain rights in each private lodge (constituent lodge) within his jurisdiction. Just as the Worshipful Master of each private lodge annually appoints lodge officers to assist him, so the Grand Master of each Grand Lodge annually appoints grand lodge officers to assist him in his work.

There are two distinct traditions in connection with the office of Grand Master, and although the following rule has exceptions, it may be said that there is basically a 'European' practice and a 'North American' practice. Generally speaking the European practice is for the same Grand Master to be re-elected for several consecutive years, maybe even several decades, whilst the North American practice is for a different senior mason to be elected as Grand Master each year. This is changing, however, as several states (such as New York State) are changing their by-laws to allow for 2 year terms of office.

The first unambiguously recorded Grand Master was Anthony Sayer, elected as the first Grand Master of the Premier Grand Lodge of England in 1717, when four ancient London lodges met together to form a Grand Lodge. However, there are earlier references to Grand Masters (for example, the architect Christopher Wren), but there is no unambiguous proof that the term is here used in its current sense. The current Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of England (the oldest Grand lodge in the world) is Prince Edward, Duke of Kent, who has served in that office since 1967. A majority of English Grand Masters have been members of the nobility or of the royal family. The title **Grandmaster** is also awarded to world-class chess masters by the world chess organization FIDE. Apart from "World Champion", Grandmaster is the highest title a chess player can attain.

It is a lifetime title; in chess literature usually abbreviated as **GM** (this is in contrast to *FM* for FIDE Master and *IM* for International Master). The abbreviation **IGM** for *International Grandmaster* can also sometimes be found, particularly in older literature. GM, IM, and FM are open to both men and women. Beginning with Nona Gaprindashvili in 1978, a number of women have earned the GM title. Since about 2000, most of the top 10 women have held the GM title.

FIDE also awards Grandmaster titles to composers and solvers of chess problems, and the International Correspondence Chess Federation awards the title of International correspondence chess grandmaster.

While, in martial arts many instructors using the title **Grandmaster** are probably highly capable and knowledgeable, their use of Master or Grandmaster strays from tradition. Oriental martial arts use more modest terms that are usually translated as "teacher". Master or Grandmaster are a Western invention, a legacy of 1950s war veterans who brought back tales of incredible martial feats upon their return from Asia. Master and Grandmaster found their way into martial arts culture when it was transplanted to America. Titles like Master are reserved for people such as religious leaders and saints.

The term **Grandmaster** in the martial arts world is the pinnacle title for some martial art styles. There are multiple meanings behind the term grandmaster depending on the lineage of the master, the style he or she practices and the method in which the grandmaster title is bestowed or claimed. In Chinese systems the modern translation of Standard Bearer is also used for the term grandmaster and representative of the style.

Brethren hope that this article gave you little more knowledge the same way it enlightened me. Hope we see you at lodge. Be careful and stay out of trouble!!!

Fraternally, Wael Semaan, Junior Warden

Schedule of Official Lodge Visits for DDGM Duncan C Chapman Masonic District 30 A

February 13, 2008
Holland Lodge # 1
7:30 PM Meeting
4911 Montrose 77006

February 26, 2008
Temple Lodge #4
7:30 PM Meeting
4055 West Bellfort 77025

March 11, 2008
J.W. Chandler Daylight Lodge #1452
9:30 AM Morning Meeting
9119 Ranglely 77055

March 13, 2008
Memorial Lodge #1298
7:30 PM Meeting
9119 Ranglely 77055

March 14, 2008
Solidarity Lodge #1457
7:30 PM MEETING
6125 Edloe 77005

March 18, 2008
Houston Lodge #1189
7 PM Meeting
4911 Montrose 7006

BARE FEET

Do you know the significance of putting off the shoes?

Putting off the shoes has a threefold signification in the Scriptures. First, it was usual to put them off in token of mourning and grief, as David is said to have gone from Jerusalem barefoot, when he fled from Absalom.

Second, it signified the yielding of one's right to another, and is so prescribed in Deuteronomy, and matured by Boaz. Third, it was a token of respect and reverence, as appears by the command of God to Moses, and the reason assigned for it was that the ground whereon he stood was Holy, or sanctified by God's immediate presence.

Thank you Brother Phillip von Stephens for the contribution.

From the Kitchen

Family, fraternity, friends. Pants, compasses, scissors. None of these exist in singular form. None of these exist alone. A single tube of cloth does not make a pant, a single scribing leg alone cannot complete a proper circle, a single knife edge cannot deftly release art trapped within a sheet of paper. No lone man is part of family, fraternity, or friends. It is when we gather together that we can manifest the best of mankind.

You already have a paid season ticket for 2008. Excellent degree work is ongoing within your lodge. Stop in, savor a meal, and enjoy a degree evening for yourself. Our calendar is online at www.HollandLodge.Org

Every member of Holland Lodge (including you!) is worthy. We continue recognizing birthdays before meals. Dine with us to receive your cake and your token gift for YOUR birthday, and we'll together continue singing for others in honoring them too.

Brother Adams, Brother Reilly, and myself remain honored serving as your Holland Lodge Stewards and we continue with assorted ongoing mealtime happy surprises. Join with all of us early and often to experience everything happening, and perhaps to sample our meals. <grins> We have impromptu Kitchen Klatches most Wednesday evenings wherein all Freemasons are welcome to polish the Work, visit, and generally have a Masonicly good time. Holland Lodge remains YOUR home!

F & S, Brother Meier

Lodge Activities/Calendar

February 13, 2008

Stated Meeting

March 12, 2008

Stated Meeting

April 9, 2008

**Please be sure to check the website at
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.

We will miss our departed Brother

**Past Master Clifford G. Foster
born 10-9-1911**

Raised 3-17-1950 and died 12-24-2007

Welcome to Our Newest Affiliated Members

Ernest R. Smith

&

Robert Smith

affiliated from Southside Lodge 493
in New York on 1-9-2008.

Bro. Brad Reel has organized monthly "snowball" visitations. Each month a group of Holland Lodge members are visiting another lodge. While visiting each month's lodge, we will recruit two members from that lodge to join us on upcoming months lodge visits. Our "snowball" will grow until June, 2008 when we will have our final visit at Holland Lodge! Each month, there will be a new sign up sheet. Members will only be committed for the month that they sign up to participate. Each month the number of Holland participants will decrease to accommodate the growing number of "snowballers". Join in the fun, contact Bro. Brad Reel at bradreel@gmail.com for information on the next visit!

Officers Of Holland Lodge No. 1

		<u>HOME</u>	<u>OFFICE</u>	<u>e-mail</u>
Worshipful Master	Patrick Porter	713-796-1131	713-294-3704	Worshipfulmaster@hollandlodge.org
Senior Warden	Jerry Jones	713-667-2817	713-201-0366	Seniorwarden@hollandlodge.org
Junior Warden	Wael Semaan	832-251-7051	713-935-8109	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	Steven Lattelle			Chaplain@hollandlodge.org
Senior Deacon	Kurtis Kasper	832-216-3519	713-348-3027	Seniordeacon@hollandlodge.org
Junior Deacon	Robert Welch	713-526-0029	713-941-7800	Juniordeacon@hollandlodge.org
Senior Steward	Michael Meier	713-729-6426	713-529-0912	SeniorSteward@hollandlodge.org
Junior Steward	Ronald Adams	713-681-7359	713-882-3823	JuniorSteward@hollandlodge.org
Marshal	Nicolas Evanoff			Marshal@hollandlodge.org
Mstr. Of Ceremonies	Nicholas Rocha		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	Duncan Chapman	281-447-8200	832-212-3181	ImmediatePM@hollandlodge.org

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