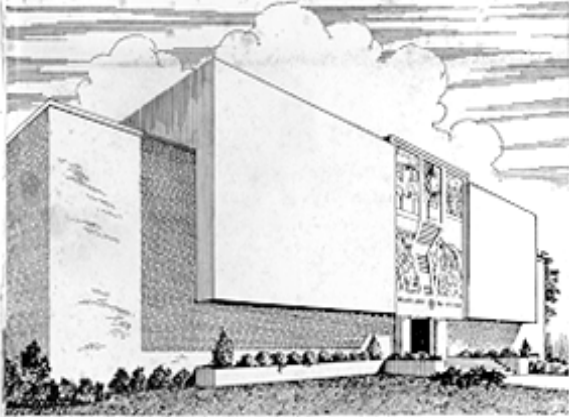


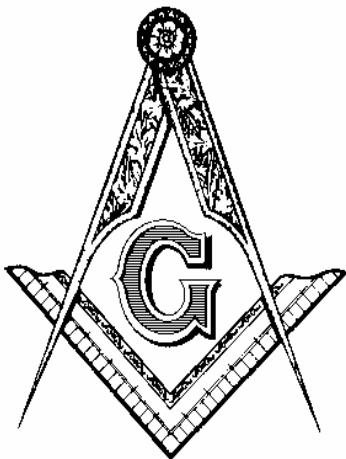
The Alpha

Holland Lodge No. 1 A.F. & A.M.
4911 Montrose Boulevard,
Houston TX 77006
(713) 529-0912
www.hollandlodge.org
January 2008
Volume 38 Number 7
Bill Sessums, Jr. P.M. – Editor



The Next Stated Meeting
January 9, 2007
Dinner at 6:30 p.m.
Lodge opens at 7:30 p.m.

Please join us for a great dinner and
then the Stated Meeting where the
business of your Lodge
will be conducted.



Brethren,

I am hoping that this newsletter finds you in good health after the holiday season. I know that personally my holiday season commenced with the wonderful meal that Past Master Earl Thompson prepared with the assistance of other brothers on December 19th. It was a good evening and it was good to see the brothers' families. It is generally one of my favorite nights up at Holland. One of the first things that I did as Master was request that Earl be a part of that evening...and especially the praline-sweet potatoes.

Brethren for those of you that were there, you probably witnessed some of the number of changes that have been taking place at Holland. In the past couple of months we have acquired new tenants for 4911 Montrose Blvd. Jacque DeMolay Lodge, Houston Lodge and the Scottish Rite have all started to make their home at Holland Lodge after their exodus from their former Brompton location.

While there have been a few growing pains, as in any endeavor, R.:W.: Duncan Chapman, Bro. Michael Meier, Bro. von Stephens and Bro. Tony Bass have been making sure that the pain hasn't been felt too widely or for too long by any group. They have been truly been doing a remarkable job. Also when help was needed to get things moved, I know that Bro. Kasper, new Bro. Murphy, and Bro. Squashingroff all pitched in to get things properly situated. I know this help is certainly appreciated. I particularly appreciate it as during that time I was in the middle of finals and was not able to be there to help.

In case it was noticed in the previous paragraph I placed a "R.:W.:" in front of Duncan Chapman's name. He is our new District Deputy Grand Master, to further add accolades to him (and Holland) he is also the Area Coordinator. When questioned about what that meant, Duncan merely replied that he got one tie to be DDGM and three ties to be Area Coordinator...so the implication there must be that it will be a lot of work. In any case, he joins a distinguished list of other Brothers who were DDGMs and members of Holland Lodge.

Brothers, we have plenty going on at Holland as well. January is a busy time of the year and continuing with tradition we are going to be welcoming Most Worshipful Tommy Griffin to Holland Lodge on January, 16th. This again is a great night for people to come and enjoy some good brotherhood, both with Holland Masons and the other Masons who come to Holland on this occasion to see our new Grand Master. I know that our kitchen is required to step it up when this happens and I know for one that I have faith in their abilities and also know that when needed they have a good number of brothers that regularly step in to help. Again, this is something that I appreciate, and the members of Holland Lodge should appreciate, if you get the chance, please, always let them know.

Another event of note which will have probably already happened by the time this is received is that one of our Brothers will have received his Fellowcraft Degree that will be conferred him by his Father. I know these are special nights and hopefully a good number of brothers make it out to see the degrees. Remember brothers, even if you don't actively work in the degree, even sitting there is participating. I think that we often forget the power that comes from our shared experiences, and it is always good to refresh ourselves by going to another Mason's degree. Not only do you get to share the experience with the brother, but you might just get the call to step in and help should the degree team need it.

Brothers, if I haven't seen you in a while, I miss you and would like to see more of you up at the Lodge. Brothers that I have seen, I appreciate all you do for Holland, be that answering questions of prospective Masons, moving tables, helping cook, working in degrees, or just plainly contributing to the positive atmosphere that we are trying to maintain at Holland.

Happy New Year!

Fraternally Patrick Porter, W.M.

From the South...

Brethren once again I salute you. The past month was a great month full of action and this happened due to the amazing work of Brother Kasper. The lodge had almost a degree each Monday and Wednesday from EA to FC and MM. We have new affiliated brethren, gentlemen our lodge is alive and doing amazingly good. I urge every brother to be more active if he can, I invite every member that has not visited the lodge in a while, please pass by, have dinner with us, participate in degrees, we need you, and the lodge needs you.

We have a new Grand Master. He will be visiting our lodge just right after the New Year, so please be there to receive him with the honors that he deserves.

We also need to congratulate one of our own, Brother Duncan Chapman, for his new position as district deputy Grand Master on district 30A. I have faith in you brother you will do great, congrats one more time.

Holland Lodge #1 is now the home for three new bodies, Jack De Molay lodge, Houston lodge and the Scottish Rite. We welcome all these new bodies and their members our brothers. We thank you for making Holland lodge your new home.

I want to extend fraternal happy holidays to everyone. I hope that your holidays will be full of joy, happiness and prosperity. Happy New Year!!!!!!

Fraternally, Wael Semaan, Junior Warden

A Masonic Tale

Thanks, Bro. Reel for the contribution

It was a tale of Masonic men surrounding a campfire in the Old West, at night, discussing the Fraternity and its teachings. One old man listened patiently, and finally spoke up: "I can tell you more about Masonry in a little example than some of the great Masonic philosophers can in books. Everybody stand up, and gather in a circle around the campfire." They did.

"Now, everybody hold hands with the man next to him." They did that, too.

"Now, what do you see, looking ahead?" "The face of a Brother Mason through the flames." "What do you feel in front of you?" "The warmth of the fire, and the comfort it brings on a cool night." "What do you feel at your side?" "The warm hand of a Brother."

"OK. Now, drop the hands, and turn around." They did so.

"Now, what do you see, looking ahead?" "Complete darkness." "What do you feel, looking ahead?" "A sense of loneliness, of being alienated." "What do you feel at your side?" "Nothing at all." "What do you feel on your backside?" "The warmth of the fire."

"So it is with Masonry," said the old man. "In Masonic gatherings, you can feel the warmth of Masonic interaction, you can see the face of a Brother through the light Masonry brings to you, and you can always feel the warm hand of a Brother. When you turn away from Masonry, and are out in the world, you see darkness, feel alienated and alone, and do not feel the warm hand of your Masonic Brother. But Masonry, and the warmth and light it brings, are just a turn away from you." Unknown

**From The Secretary
Phillip von Stephens**

People come into your life for a reason, a season or a lifetime. When you know which one it is, you will know what to do for that person. When someone is in your life for a REASON, it is usually to meet a need you have expressed. They have come to assist you through a difficulty, to provide you with guidance and support, to aid you physically, emotionally or spiritually. They may seem like a godsend and they usually are. They are there for the reason you needed them to be.

Then, without any wrongdoing on your part or at an inconvenient time, this person will say or do something to bring the relationship to an end. Sometimes they die. Sometimes they walk away. Sometimes they act up and force you to take a stand. What we must realize is that our need has been met, our desire fulfilled, their work is done. The prayers you sent up have been answered and now it is time to move on.

Some people come into your life for a SEASON, because your turn has come to share, grow or learn. They bring you an experience of peace or make you laugh. They may teach you something you have never done. They usually give you an unbelievable amount of joy. Believe it, it is real, but only for a season.

LIFETIME relationships teach you lifetime lessons, things you must build upon in order to have a solid emotional foundation. Your job is to accept the lesson, love the person and put what you have learned to use in all other relationships and areas of your life. It is said that love is blind but friendship is clairvoyant.

Thank you for being a part of my life, whether you were a reason, a season or a lifetime. From Phillip von Stephens, Secretary

It's Getting Bigger and Bigger!

If you haven't attended a Snowball Visitation yet, I encourage you to come with us on one of our monthly visitations. So far, the Snowball Visitation Team has grown nicely. Our team now includes Brothers from **Garden Oaks Lodge #1306** (August), **Houston Lodge #1189** (September), **Gray Lodge #329** (October), **Park Place Lodge #1172**, and by the time you read this we will have visited **Reagan Lodge #1037** and watched Brethren confer a Master Masons degree. We have made a lot of new friends and have even been given quite a few lapel pins from the lodges we have visited. Remember, purposes of the Snowball Visitations are to extend fraternal greetings to other lodges in District 30, strengthen our fraternal bonds, form new friendships with brothers we've never met, and gather knowledge from other lodges about what they are doing for Masonry in Texas.

Everyone benefits from our visits. It is truly a win-win situation for all involved. So, come on out and enjoy the fun and fellowship and be a part of the Snowball Visitation Team this month!

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.

Lodge Activities/Calendar

January 9, 2008

Stated Meeting

January 16, 2008

Official Visit of M. W. Tommy Griffin

February 13, 2008

Stated Meeting

March 12, 2008

Stated Meeting

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.

From the Kitchen

January. A good time of new and renew. You've already been reading of some recent events and happenings involving many Holland Lodge members. Be part of the scheduled upcoming evening visit on January 16th by our new Grand Master.

Much activity continues going on in and around our lodge. Come hear more good news yourself. You too can make the news for others to read about. Perhaps you've not watched a degree lately? Enjoy a meal and be part of the current happenings. Our calendar is online at www.HollandLodge.Org

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

Brother Adams, Brother Reilly, and I remain honored serving as your Holland Lodge Stewards for 2007-2008 and continue with ongoing mealtime happy surprises. Join with us early and often to experience everything happening and to sample our meals. We have an impromptu Kitchen Klatch most Wednesday evenings wherein all Freemasons are welcome to polish the Work, visit, and generally have a Masonicly good time. Holland Lodge is YOUR home!

Brother Adams, Brother Reilly, and I always look forwards to shaking your hands and filling your plates.

F & S, Brother Meier

Congratulations and Welcome
to Our Two Newest Master Masons
Keith B. Hartman
&
Matthew B. Murphy

Welcome to Our Newest Affiliated Member

John R. Lovett Jr., affiliated on 12-12-2007, from Dallas #760

We will miss our departed Brother

Sidney Donald Cook,
Born 1-20-1918, Raised 3-15-1961, Died 11-9-2007

Happy New Year to all!
Make 2008 the year you get more involved in Masonry!

Officers Of Holland Lodge No. 1

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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
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Junior Steward	Ronald Adams	713-681-7359	713-882-3823	JuniorSteward@hollandlodge.org
Marshal	Nicolas Evanoff			Marshal@hollandlodge.org
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Musician	Rodney Elliott	713-236-0359	713-236-0359	Musician@hollandlodge.org
Tiler	Budd Baumgardner	713-666-3625	713-666-3625	None
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