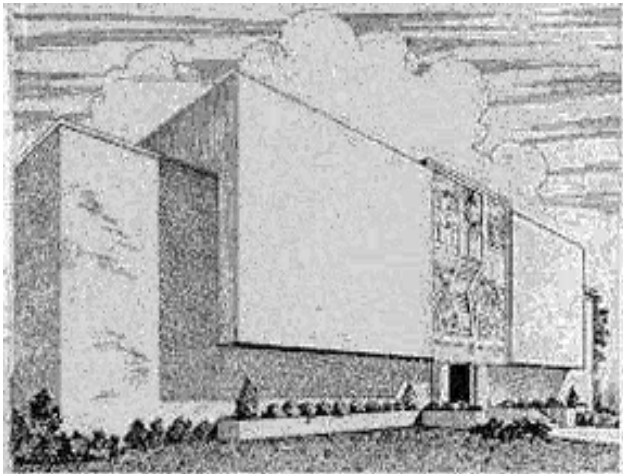


The Alpha

Holland Lodge No. 1 A.F. & A.M.
4911 Montrose Boulevard,
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(713) 529-0912
www.hollandlodge.org
July 2005
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Bill Sessums, Jr. P.M. – Editor

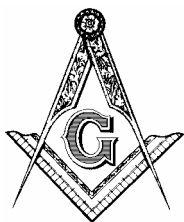


**Stated Meeting
July 13, 2005
Dinner at 6:30 P.M.
Lodge opens at 7:30 P.M.**

The 2005-2006 Budget and Committee Appointments
will be presented

The 3rd Holland Lodge #1 College Scholarship will be
awarded before the start of the Stated Meeting

**Ask to be involved,
Seek opportunities to participate
and
Know you are building your Lodge!
But most of all,
Come on Down to the Lodge!**



Tom Behrman, Worshipful Master

Holland Lodge No.1: 1835-2005
170 years of Masonry in Texas

Brethren, thank you again for the honor of being elected to serve as Worshipful Master of Holland Lodge No. 1 this year. Every year I have served as an officer at Holland Lodge No. 1, I have considered it an honor to be allowed to serve and this year is no different.

We face exciting and challenging times at Holland. I have no doubt that we are capable of meeting the challenges and moving forward on our journey in Masonry. This year marks the 170th year of our existence, dating from before Texas became a Republic and before Texas became a state in the United States. We have a time honored past and tradition. Our task at hand is to make progress in this young 21st Century, while at the same time preserving and protecting what is honorable and of lasting value from our past. Working as a team, with everyone pulling on the wagon, together, we cannot go astray.

Around three years ago, then Master Luther B. Van Cleve asked the next four line officers to address the Lodge at separate stated meetings and talk on their vision for Holland Lodge No. 1. I related various antidotes of my fondest recollections of what Masonry meant to me at Holland Lodge and talked with the Brethren about my vision for Holland for the next 5, 10, 25 and even 50 years. That view of the future is still with me today as we begin the 170th year of Masonry in Texas at Holland. I summoned up the winning prescription of Coach Darrell Royal and described my view of Holland Lodge as a Lodge of hard work, integrity and innovation. I also view Holland Lodge as a Lodge of hospitality, relevance and fun, for all of us, our Brethren and guests. I am looking forward to a hardworking year this year with all your officers working at making Holland Lodge better.

I wanted to thank our outgoing junior Past Master, Earl A. Thompson, III, for whom it was my honor and pleasure to serve as Senior Warden this past year. Earl led our Lodge with grace, passion and good common sense. Thank you Earl. And remember, "I am beside you, all the way!"

On June 4, 2005, we had the 8th Annual Sam Houston Lecture at Holland Lodge #1 with an outstanding presentation, slides and a speech by Bro. Aaron Kornblum, formerly an archivist with the National Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C., and now with the Magnes Museum in Berkley, California. Aaron spoke on a fascinating period in our history, presenting his recently published paper and lecturing on "*The Nazi Persecution of Freemasonry: Squaring the Facts and Leveling the Myths.*" The meal was terrific, the dining room packed and a terrific job in organization and execution was done by Jeff Burnett, Collin Keel and Patrick Porter. We also gave out a Community Builder Award at an open meeting on June 22, 2004, recognizing the great work of Wolf Biedenfeld for his years of service with the Veteran's Administration. What a wonderful legacy of service for his country, his fellow veterans and his family. After both the Sam Houston Lecture, jointly sponsored by the Houston Holocaust Museum, and the Community Builder Award programs, Budd Baumgardner was observed giving long and thorough guided tours of the Lodge to many non Masons interested in our Lodge and masonry. To our visitors, these two programs are very important for the exposure of Masonry to the public.

Continued on page 2

“From the South”

Well, since this is getting published I suppose that “tradition has prevailed” and that once again a Senior Deacon has found his way into the South. I would like to thank the Lodge for the opportunity and the honor to serve in this capacity. I would hope that it would go without saying that I will always strive to do my best for Holland, Masonry and my fellow brother. For those that felt that I might not be the best person to serve in this capacity please let me know what I can do to assuage your fears. I have tried not to offend anyone in any way, shape, or form; if I have please give me the chance to rectify the situation.

So...what does all this really mean for me? Well, based on what I've seen in the past this means, compiling a sick report, reporting on the Grand Lodge proceedings, reading from the Grand Lodge Law book and something about watching the clock. These are the typical and some what uninteresting duties of the Junior Warden.

What I anticipate as being more interesting...well, I hope to continue to assist in the day-to-day proceedings of the Lodge as well as helping to plan for future activities. I've been threatened that the new Worshipful Master will fully turn over the Sam Houston lecture to me. On this account, I ardently hope will just mean that I do a little leg work and Bro. Jeff continues to be the man behind the curtain, because in all honesty I'm not sure anyone could do it any better.

Now, on a completely different note, the Junior Warden is also supposed to know something about refreshment. Or at least he should remember when the lodge is supposed to be at it. In that vein, I would like to extend the invitation to all brothers to schedule some “refreshment” with me and with each other. There are bonds of friendship that are formalized inside of the lodge room, but who wants a “formal friendship”? If we only ever meet for “work”, the Lodge and the fraternity is seen as just another “work” place...and who really likes to go to work? Could this be why so few Masons once raised stay active within the Lodge? It would be much better if those same “working-friendships” were made informal and more “friendly”. The Lodge would become a more fun place; more joking could be done, sophomoric barbs could be traded without fear of charges being raised, and a stressful atmosphere transformed into a relaxing one...the temptation to launch into John Lennon's “Imagine” right now is just too great...so I'll draw this to a close.

In summary, we need more jokers in the Lodge...granted, we have a few and they seem to sit behind the Junior Warden's station during Stated Meetings, but I mean come on...we can do better. We can do better in many other respects as well. Invite your brothers back and let's make sure that they have a positive Lodge experience, both inside the building and outside of it.

Fraternally, Patrick Porter, J.W.

From the East continued...

I am looking forward to having a good time and great fun this year at Holland Lodge. Among other events this year, we will again award a Community Builder Award, give out our 3rd college scholarship at the July Stated Meeting and give out 1-2 more next Spring. We will be having our 4th Annual Barbecue Brisket Sale on October 22, 2005, and with the new legislation we may be able to have a raffle next Spring to benefit the scholarship program in order to award a couple of scholarships to college bound students next Fall. We will celebrate the 170th birthday of Holland Lodge #1 early next year, on January 18, 2006, with a special program and special guest, our new Grand Master of all Masons in Texas. I look forward to making 1-2 presentations of the Lamar Award in recognition of public education here in Texas. I cannot find a Past Master who remembers the last time a Lamar Award was given out by Holland. I and your officers are already looking forward to Grand Lodge this year and hope you will be able to make the trip with us. Given the recent success of our 8th Annual Sam Houston Lecture, I am looking forward to the 9th Annual Sam Houston Lecture next year.

Again, let me express my appreciation to you all for affording me the privilege to serve and, hopefully, make Holland Lodge a better place this upcoming year. We need to keep a great thing going at Holland Lodge #1 and I am confident your elected and appointed leadership will continue to do so with your continued participation and support. It is essential that you, *Brethren*, continue to be actively engaged in your Lodge, since your officers cannot do it alone.

As I did with my articles as Junior Warden, I will again address my articles to my “*Brethren*.” That is who you are. That is who we are. Brothers; a “sacred band or society” and a title earned; not — just given. Again, I look forward to serving you in the East just as it has been my privilege and pleasure to be the Senior Warden of Holland Lodge #1 this past year. I am pleased that all of our officers this year are committed to giving Holland Lodge their best. With everyone pulling on the wagon, there is little we cannot accomplish.

As I have called upon my Brethren before, I again want to again extend a fraternal invitation to each and every one of you to come and join us at Holland Lodge #1 and I am looking forward to your attendance and taking part in the many activities at our Lodge. We need and solicit the active involvement of our fellow members and Brethren, See you at Holland Lodge No. 1 very soon, I trust!

Fraternally, Tom Behrman

From the Secretary

If you have an e-mail address and are not receiving periodic notices of called meetings and special events you can send a note to your secretary at secretary@hollandlodge.org

And we will add you to the e-mail list.

Please notify your secretary of any charitable work done for the shrine or Scottish Rite and or other organizations. We need to be keeping track of what we as Masons do for Charities and other good causes so that we can continue to appeal for ad valorem tax exemption.

Also an actual cash or material contributions that you would like to have recorded would be beneficial for our Craft to be seen in a favorable light.

Be sure you visit

www.HollandLodge.org

For the Latest Pictures, Masonic News, Masonic Links and the Most Up to date schedule as well as the e-Alpha!

The Life Cycle

We will miss our departed Brothers...

**Charles C. Castles
Winston O. Manry
Max M. Leaman
Kenneth G. Johnsen
Marvin E. Weber, Sr.
Gene P. Burk**

Congratulations to our Newly Endowed Members!

Wael L. Semaan and Nicolas J. Evanoff

NEED A LIFT?

If you have not been attending Lodge because the stairs gave you fits... Hesitate No More!

Thanks to Duncan Chapman's untiring efforts and Many of Your contributions, Holland Lodge now has a lift!

The 170th installation was the debut for this great addition to the Lodge and what a blessing it was to have not only wheel chairs but also folks who just don't want to risk those steps be able to take the lift up to the first floor!

Thanks to all who helped make this possible through contributions marked for the lift. Your support is much appreciated!

Lodge Activities/Calendar

July, 2005

July 4	Monday - Dark - July 4, Independence Day - HOLIDAY
July 6	Wednesday - School of Instruction; Officers' and/or degree practice
July 11	Monday - Dark
July 13	Wednesday - HL #1 July Stated Meeting
July 18	Monday - Certificate/SOI, EA & FC; Officers' and/or degree practice
July 20	Wednesday - EA degree practice, and SOI, EA & FC
July 25	Monday - Certificate/SOI, EA & FC
July 27	Wednesday - Dark

August, 2005

August 1	Monday - Certificate/SOI
August 3	Wednesday - Degree practice, or EA & FC SOI
August 8	Monday - Dark
August 10	Wednesday - HL #1 August Stated Meeting

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HOUSTON, TEXAS 77006

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Officers Of Holland Lodge No. 1

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Junior Warden	Patrick Porter	713- 796-1131	713- 316-4961	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	Max Bernstein	713- 667-5697	713-667-5697	Max.bernstein@lswc.net
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Junior Deacon	Wael Semaan	713-530-9786	713-530-9786	JuniorDeacon@HollandLodge.org
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Tiler	Budd Baumgardner	713- 666-3625	713-666-3625	Tiler@Hollandlodge.org
Immediate PM	Earl A Thompson, III	713-466-8452	713-516-0698	eat003@wans.net