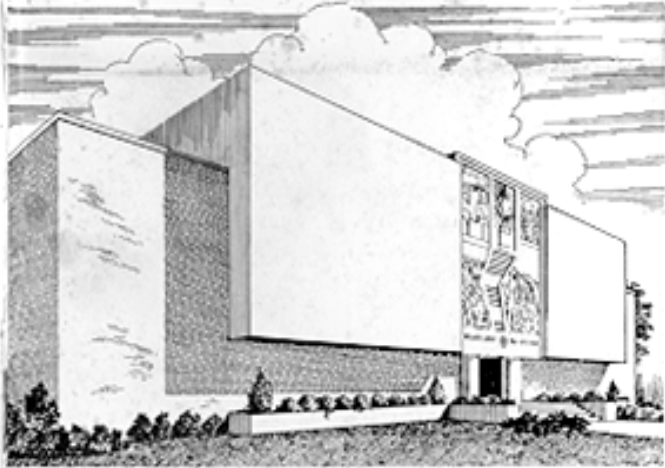


The Alpha

Holland Lodge No. 1 A.F. & A.M.
4911 Montrose Boulevard,
Houston TX 77006
(713) 529-0912
www.hollandlodge.org
July 2006
Volume 37 Number 1
Bill Sessums, Jr. P.M. – Editor



Stated Meeting:

July 12, 2006

Dinner at 6:30 p.m.

Lodge opens at 7:30 p.m.

Come on out
and Enjoy the Stewards first
Stated Meeting Meal and
Welcome and Show Your Support
for the Newly Installed Officers!

**Be sure to mark your calendars for the
August Stated meeting when we
will host an official visit of**

**R.: W.: Tom Stanton
District Deputy Grand Master
of our Masonic District**

From the East by Your New W.:M.: Duncan Chapman

Brother George Washington once said, The great object of Masonry was to promote the happiness of the human race. Peace, harmony and the happiness of Holland Lodge is my goal, with your help and input it should be a breeze. Holland Lodge #1 is your Lodge, You own it, You love it and You have every right to know everything that concerns this lodge. Another goal of mine is to keep you informed and be open to your questions.

I welcome your inquiries regarding the Lodge and Lodge activities and will do my best to be sure your questions are answered and your concerns are addressed. My email address is dcc624@yahoo.com and it is the best way to contact me.

On June 24th, "We" were duly installed as your officers for the 2006-2007 year and I would like to thank all of those who came out and witnessed our installation. Prior to the installation we were fortunate to have a tremendously moving program presented by Bro. Ken Aldridge. Brother Aldridge shared with us some of the benefits of our Shriner's hospitals. I am sure everyone in the Lodge room felt either a sense of pride and or awe regarding how much just this one little piece of masonry does for those in need. Bro. Dennis Huges and Bro. Aldridge will be returning to Holland Lodge to provide us with more information about the Shriners later in this Masonic Year.

I would also like to thank the Eastern Star Chapter #385 for their assistance in providing refreshments and decorations for our installation reception. It is great to have such a wonderful group working right along with us. I look forward to more meetings with them through out this year. Heck they have even offered to prepare a few meals for our stated meetings during this coming year! Congratulations to the newly installed Worthy Matron, Carolyn Risley.

I am looking for new and interesting programs that will benefit our members and be engaging. Hopefully you will enjoy the programs and they will make you want to attend more meetings. **If you have an area of particular interest that you think would make for a good program please email your ideas.** Lodge programs can be Masonic in nature or they can relate to anything, your job, your hobby, your safety, history, art or just plain helping others, please contact me with any and all suggestions.

We have numerous challenges to overcome this year, Taxes, Budget and Building Maintenance, just to name a few. We are blessed with many good and qualified men, who I am sure will help in each of these areas. If you have a desire to serve on a committee please contact me. It is my intention to announce my committee appointments at the July Stated.

Remember Brethren the three principal tenets of Masonry, Brother Love, Relief and Truth guide us and help us keep our lives circumscribed.

Do good unto all, Duncan Chapman, W.M.

Meet Jerry Jones, Your New Junior Warden

As most of the membership of Holland Lodge is aware, I was elected to the position of Junior Warden for the coming Masonic year. I am very pleased to re-enter the line of officers and once again being offered the opportunity to serve this great lodge. The duties of Junior Warden as stated in the by-laws include, but not limited to: assisting the Worshipful Master in all the duties of his office, or any brother, who may govern the lodge in his absence, who shall have the same authority as the Worshipful Master. To superintend the brethren at refreshment. To organize all Fellowcraft degrees and work with our Senior Warden, Brother Semaan in the scheduling of the Fellowcraft degrees. The Junior Warden is also responsible for reporting at the stated meetings the status and progress of our members or their family members who are sick, and encourage visitation when possible. Most importantly, the office of Junior Warden requires that he have knowledge of the laws and regulations of the Grand Lodge of Texas and Holland Lodge, and conduct a monthly reading at stated meetings. The laws to be read at the stated meetings should reflect the current workings of the Lodge when possible, but always at the discretion of the Worshipful Master.

Autobiography: I was born in Houston, Texas, in St. Joseph's Hospital on the 31st of October, 1938. At which time my family lived in Park Place, which is located in what is now known as the "East End", and is a few miles from the Houston ship channel, and Harrisburg, which, at that time, was a separate town, with it's own Mayor, city hall, jail and so forth. Harrisburg was founded by John R. Harris after whom the County of Harris is named. Soon after the beginning of the second world war in 1942, my family moved to Southwest Houston where I attended Robert's Elementary School, and later West University Elementary School. From our front yard at 2205 Bellfontaine, I witnessed the building of the Shamrock Hotel which was built by Brother Glen McCarthy. A few years ago I stood in almost the same spot and watched as the Shamrock was demolished. That was a sad day for me, and to this day, I miss it. On the 4th of March, 1957 I enlisted in the United States Air Force and spent four years, three months and twenty-eight days as an enlisted man, all of which were spent overseas. I served with the Eight Air Force at R.A.F Scullthrope in Norfolk, England, and later, with 322nd Air Command at Everux Air Force base in Normandy, France, near Paris. After my honorable discharge from the military I returned to Houston in 1961 and enrolled at the University of Houston where I spent the next four years. During the last semester of my senior year I took real estate courses, (at the university), which seemed a good idea, as I was from a family which had been in the real estate business for many years. I received my Real Estate Broker License and have been in that business about forty-one years. In October of 1972, I came by a tract of land in Lee County, Texas, near Giddings which is the county seat of Lee County. I have been in the cattle business there for the past 32 years.

In 2001 I was invited to visit Holland Lodge by Brother Henry Gonzalas. I was then a member of Temple Lodge here in Houston. There was a stated meeting that night at Holland and immediately upon entering the double doors of the dinning room I knew I had found a group of men with whom I would be proud to be associated. I don't think I have missed more than one meeting since. In 2003 I was appointed as Senior Stewart by Brother Patrick Mahoney. I served a very enjoyable year there and learned how to cook for a hundred people at a time. I then moved to the position of Junior Deacon and now as you already know now serve as your Junior Warden.

The institution of Freemasonry is first and foremost in my life. I come from a "Masonic family" of which all of the men that I know of were Master Masons. My grandfather, Loy H. Randall was Worshipful Master of Park Place Lodge 1172 in 1936. My father, Alton Parker Jones was raised in Holland Lodge in 1947.

I have attended Saint Mark's Episcopal for the past 62 years and have been an active member since 1950. I serve there as an Eucharistic Minister and as Verger. I have been married to my wife Tina for 35 years. We have one daughter, Virginia, and two grandsons.

I look forward to serving Holland Lodge and it's membership for the coming Masonic year and for many years to come.

Fraternally, Jerry Jones



The All Seeing Eye and Freemasonry by Bro. Brad Reel

The first official use of the all-seeing eye as a Masonic symbol seems to have come in 1797 with The Freemasons Monitor of Thomas Smith Webb. Webb's monitor explained the symbol in this way: "And although our thoughts, words and actions, may be hidden from the eyes of man, yet that All-Seeing Eye, whom the Sun, Moon and Stars obey, and under whose watchful care even comets perform their stupendous revolutions, pervades the inmost recesses of the human heart, and will reward us according to our merits." (incidentally, you will find this exact explanation in our monitor as well) Thus explained, the Eye of Providence, or All-Seeing Eye is always present to remind a Mason that his words and deeds are being judged by the Supreme Architect of the Universe. The first illustrated version of Webb's symbol appeared in The True Masonic Chart or Hieroglyphic Monitor in 1819. It was depicted as being surrounded by a semicircular glory. In fact, even today, in most cases the All-Seeing Eye is represented by glory, or what appear to be rays of light emitting from the source shining down upon us.

The All-Seeing Eye appears to be a recent addition to Masonic symbolism. It was not found in any of the Gothic Constitutions until after 1730. It's use as a design element appears to have begun as an artistic representation of God given by society at large, rather than that as a generally accepted Masonic symbol. The Eye of Providence was part of the common cultural iconography of the 17th and 18th centuries. During that time, Masonic ritual and symbolism evolved. It's not surprising that many symbols common to and understood by general society made their way into Masonic ceremonies in this period.

Although Webb did not describe the eye as being in a triangle, it has sometimes been illustrated as being in a triangle. During the 17th and 18th centuries when the All-Seeing Eye was making it's way into Freemasonry, Masons may have promoted the use of the triangle in conjunction with the eye due to the common use of the number "3" in our ceremonies. The three sides of the triangle are symbolic of the three degrees, three original grand masters, three lights (greater and lesser), three principle officers, etc. However, the pyramid is not a Masonic symbol and has no generally accepted Masonic meaning, except that of possibly mystery or permanence.



There have been many conspiracy theories attributed to Freemasonry. Before I began my research, I was largely unaware of most of the conspiracy theories and anti-Masonry movements that are out there. However, one that most of us have heard is that the Masons are covertly planning to take over the world. Conspiracy theorists offer The Great Seal of the United States of America as evidence of a sinister plan. Brother's, there is nothing further from the truth than this exaggerated tall tale!

As I have stated earlier, the All-Seeing Eye did not officially come into use in Freemasonry until 1797. This was 14 years after Congress adopted the design for the Great Seal. Benjamin Franklin, disputably, was the only Mason on the first design committee. I say disputably, because Thomas Jefferson was also on the first design committee and there has been ongoing controversy as to whether or not Thomas Jefferson was in fact a Mason or not. It has never been proven that he had been initiated. However, regardless of whether he was a Mason or not, it was the committee's artist/consultant, Du Simitiere, a non-Mason, who proposed the Eye of Providence inside the pyramid for the Great Seal. And, the first design committee's suggestions were declined by Congress, as well as that of the second design committee. It wasn't until the third design committee borrowed from the earlier committee's work to make what became the Great Seal of the United States. None of the members of the third and final design committee were Masons.

Furthermore, the interpretation of the eye on the seal is subtly different from the interpretation that we use in Freemasonry. The "Remarks and Explanations of Charles Thomson and William Barton, third design committee members and non-masons, are the only explanation of the symbols' meaning. They explain that the eye on the seal represents an active intervention of God in the affairs of men. However, Freemasonry interprets the All-Seeing Eye as a passive awareness by God of the activities of men.

A special thanks from the Alpha Editor to Bro. Reel for allowing a reprinting of this paper. With The Da Vinci Code creating a greater awareness of Freemasonry it seemed appropriate to share this interesting work with you again in our Alpha.

"The only good is knowledge and the only evil is ignorance." Socrates.

Lodge Activities/Calendar

July, 2006 —
July 12 Wednesday - **HL #1 July Stated Meeting**
August, 2006 —
August 9 Wednesday - **HL #1 July Stated Meeting**

Please check the website at www.HollandLodge.org for updates and meeting announcements.

Officers Of Holland Lodge No. 1

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Worshipful Master	Duncan Chapman	281- 447-8200	832- 212-3181	dcc624@yahoo.com
Senior Warden	Patrick Porter	713- 796-1131	713- 294-3704	pporter78@gmail.com
Junior Warden	Jerry Jones	713-667-2817	713-201-0366	JBX@Texas.net
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
Chaplain	Robert Welch	713-526-0029	713-941-7800	texaswelch@hotmail.com
Senior Deacon	Wael Semaan	713-530-9786	713-530-9786	the_semaans@hotmail.com
Junior Deacon	Michael Orr, Jr.	832-477-3624	832-477-3624	michelorr@gmx.de
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Tiler	Budd Baumgardner	713- 666-3625	713-666-3625	None
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