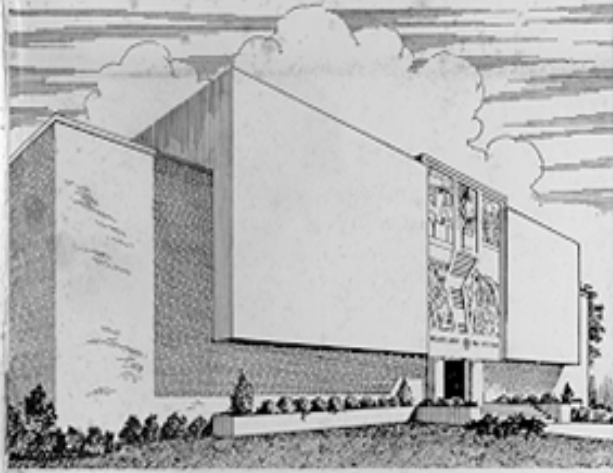


## **THE e-ALPHA**

**Holland Lodge No. 1 A.F. & A.M.**  
4911 Montrose Boulevard, Houston TX 77006  
(713) 529-0912  
www.hollandlodge.org  
June 2004  
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Bill Sessums, Jr. P.M. – Editor



### **STATED MEETING**

**June 9, 2004**  
**Dinner at 6:30 P.M.**  
**Lodge opens at 7:30 P.M.**

**Program will be**

**Election of Officers!**

**The 2004**  
**Golden Trowel Award**  
**Will be presented to**  
**Brother Bill Sessums, Sr.**  
**At 7:00 PM on June 16, 2004**  
**in the lodge room.**  
**Dinner at 6 p.m.**

### ***From the East...***

At the May Stated Meeting the Past Masters were Honored and given an opportunity to share moments and thoughts from their years. There were 15 Past Masters in attendance and they honored my request to recall some moment of humor in their year. Bro. Baumgardner nearly brought the house down with his story. The other Past Masters also had some good thoughts that made everyone chuckle a little.

The 7th Sam Houston lecture was presented on May 15 by Hon. Nelson King, Editor of the Philathes Magazine. He spoke on the History of Prince Hall Masonry. This is a topic for which we, as Regular Masons, know very little and often here only repeated rumor and slanders. We had the largest attendance of any Lecture so far and everyone enjoyed the talk and the presentation. King's paper is available to download from the Holland Lodge website. Much credit goes to Bro. Jeff Burnett, PM, and Bro. Tom Behrman, JW, for organizing and carry through with all the many details required for this years Lecture. I am preparing a DVD video of the lecture and it should be available this month. The length is about 40 minutes and covers King delivering his paper.

Holland continues to do Degree work on Candidates with ever more Brothers participating. No certificates are needed to participate, only a desire to learn and share in the Greatest Fraternity in the world. Come to a practice and share, remembering that it was Men like us who did so when we went through the Degrees.

A Fellow Craft Degree was done on May 19 and was done so very well by all participating. Thanks to team for doing so well on short notice.

Brother Colin Keel was Raised to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason on May 26. Bro. Keel will be at the June Stated Meeting so come and meet our newest Master Mason and see the future of Holland Lodge in his eyes.

A Legal Master Masons Degree was done on May 26 with M.: W.: Grand Master Reese Harrison participating and conferring the Degree. Holland is honored to have the Grand Master come again and work in a Degree. The Degree Team was composed of Members of Holland Lodge who are Lawyers. You should have heard the practice session. Thanks to W.: Tom Johnson for thinking up the idea and being the moving force to do what has never been done before, but what we hope will be repeated again.

With June Stated Meeting approaching it will soon be time for elections. The Officers who have served this year have been outstanding and nothing could have been accomplished without their efforts. I thank them all whenever I can and have tried to show my appreciation for their efforts. I could easily praise each Officer but then the Alpha would be close 20 pages. Bro. Earl Thompson, SW, has been the XO I dreamed of. Always there, always doing what needed to be done and giving good advice to me and others. Bro. Tom Behrman, JW, is a steady and strong influence on me and for Holland. Bro. Chapman has been there when he wasn't there. By this I mean he has had the heating and cooling working like a clock. Good job on the cooling and the many things about the building that make Holland Lodge look and feel so impressive. I could go on and on but I ask that the Brothers of Holland Lodge to single them and the other Officers out and say thanks for a job well done.

Continued on page 2

**From the East continued...**

Holland Lodge will present the Community Builder Award to Name 1, Name 2, and Name 3 of the Houston Sheltie Sanctuary on June 12. The presentation will be at 11am on a Saturday. Following the presentation by The M.: W.: Grand Master Harrison (The Grand Master adopted a rescued Sheltie from the Houston Sheltie Sanctuary) there will photos in the Lodge Room with the recipients, the Grand Master and 100+ Shelties. It is hoped that this will be a cover story in The Texas Mason. To add to the day the Houston Sheltie Sanctuary members will setup an Agility trial on the front lawn at Holland and the Shelties will run and play like has never been seen at Holland Lodge. This is an excellent time to

bring your families and friends to see a fun event and answer those questions not asked about who we are as Masons. There will be a light lunch and treats for the dogs. The Ladies have touched the hearts of many including the 353 Shelties rescued and the Shelties will touch your hearts as well.

**Holland Lodge voted at the May Stated Meeting to award the Golden Trowel to Bro. Bill Sessums, Sr. Bro. Sessums is our current District Instructor and has been willing to teach and help all of the Officers and anyone else who asks. I personally thank Bro. Sessums for his support, encouragement and thoughts during this year. The presentation will be on June 16, with dinner at 6 and the Presentation at 7pm. Here we honor one of our own and we will share that honoring with Bro. Sessums friends.**

June 26 is installation of our new Officers. "Should Tradition" prevail Bro. Thompson will be installed and keep the ball at Holland Lodge rolling onward. Every installation is import because it allows our Lodge to show to the outside world who is Holland Lodge and to be able to face to our Lodge. It is sad for me to be leaving the East but at the same time it is a joy for me to see Earl take the East. I have offered my installation speech from last year (10 pages single spaced) but have not been taken up on my offer.

It has been my Honor and privilege to serve Holland Lodge and the Members as Worshipful Master these past 11+ months. Honor in that there are but 168 Men who have gone before me as Master. Privilege in that the Officers and Members made this year worthy of remembering. It is because of everyone's effort, energy and time that many things have been accomplished this year. Holland Lodge stands taller and brighter and I Thank you.

**Fraternally,  
Patrick D. Mahoney, Worshipful Master**



**Ashley**



**Sam**

## *"From the South"...*

**2003-2004 at Holland Lodge #1; Das Ende. Brethren**, and what a Masonic year it has been at Holland Lodge #1. I had hoped to complete my masonology research for this year on the article I wanted to end up writing here as my final *Alpha* article as Junior Warden, however, I got a little distracted on the road with all the activities that have transpired this past year at Lodge.

I wanted to express my appreciation to you all for having had the privilege to serve and, hopefully, contribute throughout this past year as your Junior Warden. I feel we have kept a great thing going at Holland Lodge #1 and 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.

I look back on the last 12 months, from my very first article to this one, and am amazed at the year I have been fortunate to witness. After squeezing in a 3-part series on the various Lodge Courtesies which I have wanted to address for some time at Lodge, I otherwise spent the year discussing a number of the many events that have marked the year. For example, and to only mention a few, the fun Earl, Duncan and I had in Austin at the Warden's retreat, the shrimp boil in Galveston with Harmony Lodge #6, the Houston Chapter #285 Eastern Star recognition of Masons, with **R.:W.: Tommy Griffin** speaking, the Saturday Forum and certificate exams held at Holland, the annual UT and Texas A&M Turkey Day dinner, with the inspiring stories and speeches by UT and A&M former players **Loyd Wainscott** and **Sammy Williams**, not to mention goose bumps with the playing of both "*The Eyes of Texas*" and "*The Spirit of Aggieland*", our various Lodge visitations, including going to the Grand Lodge of Texas annual communication in December, followed shortly thereafter by the official visit to Holland Lodge #1 of the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Texas, **M.:W.: Reese L. Harrison, Jr.**, and his inspiring speech on the meaning of our fraternity, not to mention the 994 score of Holland Lodge #1 Team Fellowcraft, the moving visit of many Brethren, their spouses, children and guests to the Houston Holocaust Museum and most recently, the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Sam Houston Lecture, with guest speaker **R.:W.: Nelson King**, Editor of the Philaethes Society journal, speaking on "*Black and White --- A History and Development of Prince Hall Masonry.*" This exhaustive list does not even include the Lawyers' Master Mason degree this past week, conferred by **M.:W.: Reese L. Harrison, Jr.**, organized and led by Grand Senior Deacon, **W.: Tom B. Johnson** and with **R.:W.: Tommy Griffin** as the designated prompter, and the upcoming Golden Trowel Award on June 16, 2004, for **Bro. Bill Sessums, Sr.**, and the Community Builder Awards on Saturday, June 12, 2004, to Ms. **Linda Pariapiano**, Ms. **Joan Samuelson** and Ms. **Connie Goedecke** for their work in the rescue and placement of hundreds of Shetland sheepdogs (Shelties), where **M.:W.: Reese L. Harrison, Jr.** will again be in attendance. And this does not even take into account the numerous degrees conferred this year. We have been blessed at Holland Lodge #1 to have had the printed *Alpha* these past 34 years, **Bro. T.J. Burnett, Jr.** as Editor, with more years to come, and we also witnessed the launching of the *eAlpha* this year under **Bro. Bill Sessums, Jr.** Great jobs, Jeff and Bill! Thanks for your help this year.

Individually and cumulatively these various events had made for a very significant year at Holland Lodge #1. I certainly will not soon forget sitting at my computer working on my next article for the Alpha when an email came from out of the blue from **Bro. Duke Keller** which referenced me to the Channel 2 news conference and *Houston Chronicle* article that day with 2-year old little **Lauren Keller's** picture on it publicizing the announcement of the new surgical unit at Texas Children's Hospital associated with infant surgery of the sort **Lauren** had when she was born with a large neck mass. What a beautiful girl, Duke, and a tremendously uplifting story. My own daughter, Annie, was born with a small, benign tumor on her neck and we have been fortunate in its resolution without surgery. To see Lauren in that picture and story, pretty much made my year! She and the whole Keller family are all a part of us, Masonry and Holland Lodge #1.

You will note that throughout the year I have addressed each article to my "**Brethren**," because that is who you are. That is who we are. Brothers; a "sacred band or society" and a title earned; not just given. Again, it has been my privilege and pleasure to be the Junior Warden of Holland Lodge #1 this year. Maybe I can finish my research on my Masonology topic this upcoming year and Jeff and Bill will let me slip it into an Alpha article. Another time, another issue. I will keep on trying. Who knows; how does the saying go, "Look to the West."

As I have said all year, I again want to extend another 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, J. W.**

## Community Builder Award

M.: W.: Reese L. Harrison, Jr  
Grand Master

Will be present to present the 2004 Community  
Builder Awards on behalf of Holland Lodge on

**June 12, 2004**  
**At 11:00 A.M.**

To

**Ms. Linda Parlapiano**  
**Ms. Joan Samuelson**  
**Ms. Connie Goedecke**

For their work in the rescue of some  
347 Shetland Sheepdogs (Shelties)

G.: M.: Harrison owns one (Sam) as does our  
own Worshipful Master Mahoney (Ashley)

[See page 2 for pictures!](#)

## New Master Mason

Welcome and congratulations to  
Brother Collin Gene Keel

Who was raised to the sublime degree of  
Master Mason on May 26, 2004  
In Holland Lodge No. 1, AF&AM

## The Life Cycle

*With Sincere Sympathy*

*Brother Jack Bernard Bailey*  
*Was lost to us on May 8, 2004*  
*He was Raised to the degree of Master Mason*  
*In Holland Lodge on July 4, 1953*

*Brother Gerald Sampson Gordon*  
*Died on December 6, 2003*  
*He was affiliated with*  
*Holland Lodge on January 12, 1983*

*Brother Robert Harding Kelso*  
*Passed to the Grand Lodge Above on April 22, 2004*  
*He was Raised to the degree of Master Mason*  
*In Holland Lodge on November 25, 1946*

*Brother Marion Dennis Leach*  
*Was lost to us on May 12, 2004*  
*He was Raised to the degree of Master Mason*  
*In Holland Lodge on December 15, 1956*

*Brother Charles T. Oppermann, Jr.*  
*Died on April 30, 2004*  
*He was affiliated with*  
*Holland Lodge on March 13, 1963*

## Lodge Activities/Calendar

June 9, 2004	Stated Meeting & Election of Officers
June 12, 2004	Community Builder Award
June 14, 2004	School of instruction
June 16, 2004	See website
June 21, 2004	School of instruction
June 23, 2004	See website
June 26, 2004	169th Installation of officers
July 14, 2004	Stated Meeting

**More dates will be published on the  
website after installation!**

**Be sure to check our the website at  
[www.hollandlodge.org](http://www.hollandlodge.org)  
for updates!**

## Officers Of Holland Lodge No. 1

		HOME	OFFICE	e-mail
Worshipful Master	Patrick D. Mahoney	(713) 932-1993	(713) 552-1700	WorshipfulMaster@HollandLodge.org
Senior Warden	Earl A. Thompson	(713) 466-8452	(281) 376-5530	SeniorWarden@HollandLodge.org
Junior Warden	Tom Behrman	(713) 721-6003	(713) 426-6114	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		max.bernstein@lswc.net
Senior Deacon	Duncan Chapman	(281) 447-8200	(832) 212-3181	SeniorDeacon@HollandLodge.org
Junior Deacon	Allen Johnson	(281) 855-8355	(713) 431-4360	JuniorDeacon@HollandLodge.org
Senior Steward	Jerry B. Jones	(713) 667-2817	(713) 201-0366	SeniorSteward@HollandLodge.org
Junior Steward	Carl Reilly	1-(337) 217-3905	(713) 870-6040	carlreilly@communicomn.com
Marshal	Walter Sanders	(713) 665-1838		Marshal@HollandLodge.org
Mstr. Of Ceremonies	Patrick Porter	(713) 796-1131	(713) 316-4961	MasterCeremonies@HollandLodge.org
Musician	Bill DeBruhl, Jr.	{Deceased}		
Tiler	Budd Baumgardner	(713) 666-3625		

### **An Editorial, By Bill Sessums, Jr., P.M.**

As this Masonic year comes to a close, I want to personally congratulate the officers who gave of their time, energy and effort to lead our Lodge.

If you have ever stepped out of your comfort zone and volunteered to be a leader in a voluntary organization you know that there are times when the job brings you absolute personal satisfaction and there are times when you think you must have lost your mind!

The only compensation for a job well done is that your members support your efforts, appreciate your energy and if you are really lucky at least every once in a while someone will send you a note or tell you in person, thank you.

To the Officers of Holland Lodge,  
Thank You for giving your best and choosing to make a difference!

*Fraternally,*

*Bill Sessums, Jr.*

P.S. If you would like to share your thoughts with the Officers, their emails are right above this message!