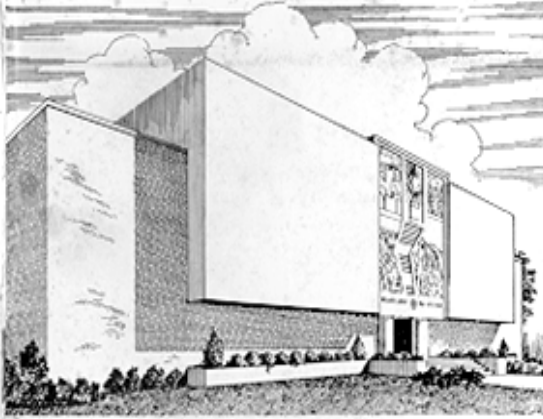


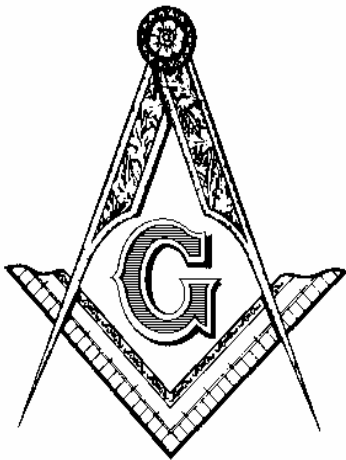
The Alpha

Holland Lodge No. 1 A.F. & A.M.
4911 Montrose Boulevard,
Houston TX 77006
(713) 529-0912
www.hollandlodge.org
June 2008
Volume 38 Number 12
Bill Sessums, Jr. P.M. – Editor



The Next Stated Meeting
June 11, 2008
Dinner at 6:30 p.m.
Lodge opens at 7:30 p.m.

Please join us for a
Great Dinner,
Election of Officers and
Presentation of Scholarships
all at the
June Stated Meeting



From the East

Brethren,

This should be my last article, as this month we will be conducting elections for next year's officers. It has been a source of great pride that I have seen the officer corps this year continue to mature and develop valuable leadership skills which I believe will serve Holland well in the coming years.

It has been my philosophy this year to try and inspire increased ownership by the membership in our lodge. I believe in empowering individuals to create value and execute on projects which they believe are in the best interest of Holland and Masonry. I believe that I have succeeded; and while I try not to take any credit for the actual results, I do believe it is the best atmosphere for Masonry to exist. Fundamentally, this is a volunteer group. You must want to be at lodge. I hope that what I have created is an atmosphere where people want to be at lodge.

This atmosphere is obviously not all of my own doing. It has started with some of the junior officers and general membership. Abe Lattelle organized a charity motorcycle ride to raise money for scholarships. Brad Reel started the snowball visitation group to help spread a sense of fraternity. Mike Meier has somehow managed to recruit more people into the kitchen than I can fathom. Kurt Kasper and Bob Welch are leading the charge in terms of education and have succeeded in restarting the Monday night practice sessions. Patrick Mahoney, Tom Behrman, and T.J. Burnett continue to help with the Sam Houston Lecture to make sure that happens in a quality manner every year. Duncan Chapman and the membership at Garden Oaks lodge also have helped us anchor our BBQ brisket sale. I certainly can't omit the efforts of Bill Sessums Jr. who month after month continues to generate and handle the Alpha.

For all these various efforts these brothers should be applauded. These brothers are continuously creating value and improving the value of the lodge experience for the people they are around and for the new and prospective members that continue to come to our building seeking to be part of something that is different and unique. As long as we have people willing to provide that value we will continue to generate new members.

On a special note, I would like to issue some special thanks to the Senior Deacon. Kurt Kasper has been virtually my right hand this entire year. He has ably performed in every single meeting his duties and then some. He continues to learn more work and does an amazing job of putting it into action. He has scheduled every degree and every examination and has generally been indispensable to me and this lodge in shepherding candidates through the stages. If my year has gone smoothly it is largely due to the fact that Kurt has been there to help. He should go down in Holland Lodge history as one of our greatest assets.

On a second note, no lodge runs well if it on an empty stomach. Mike Meier and Ron Adams have done a great job of making sure that hasn't happened. Whether it was making sure the Barry Podwin or Carl Reilly were there to help out or just making sure coffee and tea were ready for practice sessions. These four men have help foster an amazing sense of brotherhood in the kitchen and in the lodge. I would like to personally thank all of them as well.

While I would love to be able rest and admire the laurels that this lodge has generated there is much work to be done and as always there is place for you all to help and participate. In May there were four investigation committees assigned which means that more than likely we'll be voting and doing EA degrees. My sources say that we will also shortly be having a strong run of Fellowcrafts degrees to perform as our various schools of instruction continue to work people through the pipeline. While my year is drawing to a close there is not ample time for rest or reflection; my brothers we have good men that we hope can be made better.

Thank you all for a wonderful year.

Fraternally Patrick Porter, W.M.

THE OLD MASTER'S WAGES

BY NEIL NEDDERMEYER-1979

I meet a dear old man today, who wore a Masonic pin.

It was old and faded, like the man, its edges were worn quite thin.

I approached the park bench where he sat, to give the old brother his due.

I said, "I see you've traveled east", He said, "I have, have you?"

I said, "I have and in my day, before the all seeing sun,

I played in the rubble with Jubala, Jubilo, and Jubalum.

He shouted, don't laugh at the work my son, it's good and sweet and true,

And if you've traveled as you said, you should give these things a due.

The word, the sign, the token, the sweet Masonic prayer,

The vow, that all have taken, who climbed the inner stair.

The wages of a Mason, are never paid in gold,

But the gain comes from contentment, when you're weak and growing old.

You see, I've carried my obligation, for almost eighty years,

It has helped me through the hardships, and the failures full of tears.

Now, I'm losing my mind and my body, death is near but I don't despair,

I've lived my life upon the level, and I'm dying upon the square.

Sometimes the greatest lessons are those that are learned anew,

And the old man in the park today, has changed my point of view.

To all Masonic brothers, the only secret is to care,

May you live upon the level, and part upon the square.

Thank you Brother Brad Reel for the contribution.

From the Kitchen...

What's Going On!

Holland Lodge is happily humming merrily along. More good degree work, the annual Masonic Oak Picnic, 11th annual Sam Houston Lecture, more good meetings and gatherings with close fellowship in peace and harmony. Thus sums up May 2008.

June 4th, Table Lodge

From time immemorial, Freemasons have enjoyed meeting about a "Festive Board" loaded with the fruits of their labor. From the idea of the feast, and the desire to promote a greater degree of fellowship and kinship in Masonry, was born the Table Lodge. EA's, FC's, and MM's are all welcome to partake. Reservations are strongly requested. **Please inform our lodge Secretary if you will attend this special Table Lodge on June 4th.**

Scholarship awards will be given before the Stated Meeting & annual elections on June 11th. The annual Installation of Officers is scheduled for 10am on Saturday July 12th.

You do hold a blue season ticket for 2008. Excellent degree work is steadily ongoing within your lodge. Savor a meal and watch the Work in action. The 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 and receive your token cake and your token gift for YOUR birthday, and we will together sing.

Brother Adams, Brother Reilly, Brother Podwin, and myself remain honored serving as your 2007-2008 Holland Lodge Stewards and we continue ongoing mealtime happy surprises. Join with us early and often to sample our varied meals and to experience everything happening within Holland Lodge. We have impromptu Kitchen Klatches most Wednesday (plus most Monday) evenings wherein all Free Masons are welcome to polish The Work, visit, and generally have a Masonically good time. Holland Lodge remains YOUR home!

We continue looking forwards to shaking your hands and filling your plates.

Fraternally and Sincerely, Brother Meier

From the Secretary

BUILDING OF THE TEMPLE OF SOLOMON:
What was the length of time taken for the building of the Temple?

In the fourth year was the foundation laid, in the month of Zif: and in the eleventh year in the month of Bul, which is the eighth month, was the house finished throughout all the parts thereof, and according to all the fashion of it. So was he seven years in building it.

Have you paid your Lodge Dues?

If not, please pay your dues.

Suspensions will go out June 23, 2008.

Please call the W.:M.: or your Secretary to make other arrangements.

Sam Houston Lecture Steward's Report

Our guests, at the Eleventh Sam Houston Lecture, were dined and lectured in fine form. We altogether thank the volunteers listed, plus the many others that participated in the memorable shining evening.

Mealtime working volunteers included:

Worshipful Master, Patrick Porter

Senior Warden, Jerry Jones

Secretary, Phillip von Stephens

Senior Deacon, "Kurt" Kasper

Junior Steward, "Ron" Adams

"3rd Steward", Carl Reilly

"5th Steward", Barry Podwin

Members from Houston Chapter #201, Order of DeMolay Members from the Phillipus family

The DeMolay members each received a signed timesheet showing 4 hours applicable toward earning merit bars for Masonic Service. The requirements include a minimum of ten hours of service at minimum three events, without financial payments, per merit bar.

Volunteers partook of tasty pizzas and cold sodas in the kitchen and on the back steps. It was another good time of fellowship together again.

The caterer (Outback Steakhouse) supplied extra meals. Extra meals were placed in styrofoam clamshell containers and distributed offsite to needy people by Bros. Kasper and Podwin. Anonymous charity in action!

You may hear more about this event in a future Alpha. This was from the Senior Steward's perspective... Thank for the insights Bro. Meier!

Lodge Activities/Calendar

June 4, 2008

Scholarship Awards & Table Lodge

June 11, 2008

Stated Meeting

July 9, 2008

Stated Meeting

July 12, 2008

Installation of Officers

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 Brothers

Robert Boyd Partain, born 6-19-1931, died 4-10-2008

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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