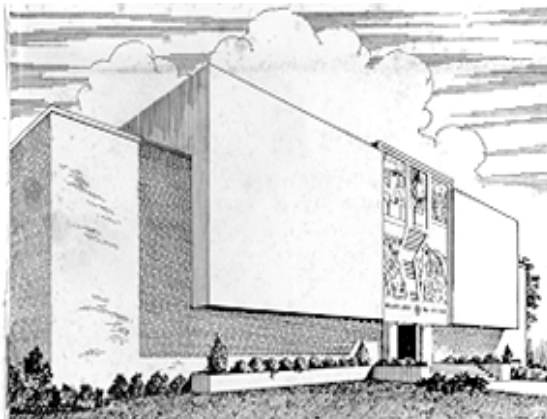


The Alpha

Holland Lodge No. 1 A.F. & A.M.
4911 Montrose Boulevard,
Houston TX 77006
(713) 529-0912
www.hollandlodge.org
May 2009
Volume 39 Number 11
Bill Sessums, Jr. P.M. – Editor



From the East

There were a couple of interesting events that occurred during the month of May. The first of which was at our last stated meeting Brother Michael Philipus stopped by with some of the DeMolay boys who had just returned from a competition at which they competed with other DeMolay Chapters in the various DeMolay degrees and other ritual work concerning their order. They proudly displayed the banners they had received as a result of winning most of the events in which they entered. This was a national competition at which the best DeMolay Degree teams in the country competed for the honor of being the best. Of the ten different events concerning the degree and ritual work the boys of Houston Chapter Number 201 which Holland Lodge supports and for whom we donate space (on our third floor) won eight. On the landing between the second and third floor stands a large display of trophies and other awards such as ribbons, metals and banners of every description. Of the ten young men who were there that night it was interesting to note that two of them were Masons, one Master Mason and one entered apprentice. Neither of these men had reached the age of twenty-one years. I have met other young men from the various DeMolay Chapters who were also Master Masons. One of these "boys" has an "A" certificate. He just turned nineteen years of age. It is this writer's opinion that it is never too soon to begin working to build and improve a man's character. To take a good man and make him a better man is one of the precepts upon which our fraternity is based. The sooner we began to work toward this end, the better!

Many of our members (of Holland Lodge) were DeMolays. Our member and Past Grand Master of all Masons in Texas, Brother Elmer Murphy began his Masonic career as a DeMolay, as did I. Brother Elmer and my self are both fifty-five year Senior DeMolays. Only to be out done by Brother John Elmore who last year, received his sixty year pin. Others are Duncan Chapman (twenty-five years), Michael Meier, Tom Shearer, Scott McClellan, Weldon Clampitt who now serves as Executive Officers of all DeMolays in Texas and is expected to be installed as an International Grand Officer soon. The Order has also had as members, John Wayne (the actor), Buddy Epton, Frank Boreman and Walt Disney.

The annual Masonic Oak Picnic which was held at the Masonic Oak Park just outside the town of Brazoria, about 60 miles South of Houston just off highway 288. I traveled with Brother Meier again this year and returned all in one piece in spite of that G.P.S. thingy that insisted we were doing everything wrong. As you all know by now, The park surrounds a large Live Oak tree where the first meeting of Holland Lodge was held one hundred and seventy-three years ago with Brother Anson Jones serving as Worshipful Master. Brother Jones was also the first Grand Master of Texas. As always, a great time was had by all. Grand Master David Counts and Past Grand Master Elmer Murphy were in attendance. There was plenty of great barbecue complete with all the fixins' [sic]. The picnic was and always has been a family affair complete with dogs, kids and a whole bunch of barbecue eatin' Masons and their wives and/or significant others. The weather that day was beautiful and the cloud cover kept the sun at bay for most of the day. For those of you who question as to ether or not the Masonic Oak actually exists I suggest you travel down 288 and check it out for yourselves. It's still there. It is however beginning to show it's age which I estimate to be around three hundred years. There are several pieces of steel holding certain parts from falling too near the ground. It's an old man now after all these years. When Freemasonry first came about, more than one thousand years ago that Oak wasn't anywhere near being an acorn yet.

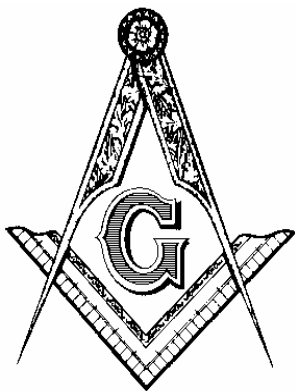
About the time the Grand Lodge of England came into being sometimes in the 1700's the deer or the bird or whatever deposited the acorn which grew into that majestic oak. Soon, like most of us reading this article that great tree will fall and become once again a part of the good earth from which it, and we sprang. Freemasonry however will continue to survive.

Jerry Brainard Jones W.M. Holland

The Next Stated Meeting June 10, 2009

Dinner at 6:30 p.m.
Lodge opens at 7:30 p.m.

**Please join us for a Dinner and
Election of Officers**



**Stated Meetings are held on the
2nd Wednesday of each month.**
Please check the website at
www.HollandLodge.org
for updates & announcements.

**There are Degrees and Proficiency Exams
taking place on a regular basis...check the
website for details.**

Greetings From the South...

Another Masonic year draws to a close.

Have we taken to heart and benefited from the great virtues and tenets of our excellent institution during this waning year?

Yes brethren, to a great extent we have. This is evidenced by many things.

The caliber of this year's initiates reflects the excellent judgment of the brethren of Holland Lodge No. 1. It would be an arduous task to find novices of this standard in any organization on earth. Freemasonry is "World Class." Our newest brethren are representative of our care and conscientious perpetuation of the ideals of our fraternity.

The care and effort the brethren of our degree teams put into the memorization and presentation of ritual is clearly evident in the degree work. Many of those regularly participating in this important work are brand new or relatively recent members and this strong effort never ceases.

During this year I have written about some of the great lessons written, symbolized, or otherwise represented or expressed in what we call "the work."

Being measured, both individually and fraternally, by Amos' great testing instrument and of his overriding concern regarding not only uprightness of conduct, but social, political and economic injustice. We should understand that we need not wait for that metaphorical plumb line to drop from above, but remember that it is every man's duty to constantly position himself alongside that instrument to continually measure his personal conduct.

The sanctity of the ballot: that we should always render to each man is just due without distinction.

The meaning and application of "3 5 7." That we should respect the authority of those we have placed in positions of important responsibility; to fully employ all of our physical senses to come to understand that we are in fact all children of one almighty parent; and to virtuously pursue those disciplines that will increase our understanding of the world, its societies and histories so that we may become essential and effective contributors to the establishment of God's Kingdom on Earth.

That the Oil and Dew of the 33rd Psalm overflows all things, people and places.

That Ruth's story is not only the source of a symbolic act and a beautiful story of familial love, but that love is meant to extend beyond all prejudices and tribal, societal or national bounds to include all of God's created children.

That we strive unceasingly to inculcate within us, so that we may extend to all, the spiritual and moral philosophies so beautifully expressed within our tiled spaces and in so doing when we finally arrive in that undiscovered country we shall indeed find that house of many rooms, each of which is occupied by those of a like mind; friends and brothers and sisters all.

Let us, during the dawning Masonic year, continue to take heart and benefit from the great values and tenets of our excellent institution.

Sincerely, Fraternally and "Happy New Year"

Bob Welch, Junior Warden

From the Secretary

The Election of officers will be June 10, 2009 at the stated meeting.

The Installation of officers will be at 11:00 A.M. June 27, 2009 in Holland Lodge No. 1.

CONENANT OF MASONRY. What is a covenant or obligation?

A covenant is defined to be a contract or agreement between two or more parties on certain terms, and there can be no doubt that when a man is made a Mason he enters into a covenant with the Institution. On his part he promises to full fill certain promises and to discharge certain duties, for which on the other part the Fraternity bind themselves by an equivalent covenant of friendship, protection, and support.

Endowed members are encouraged to send in a contribution to Holland Lodge as the Grand Lodge of Texas is unable to pay any part of the interest of past endowed membership because of market conditions.

Affiliated Members

Nathaniel O. Fuller by Certificate of Good Standing from Cortland Lodge No 34 N.Y.

Deaths: We will miss

Brother William G. Weatherly Jr. who was raised on May 25, 1940 and Died on April 30, 2009.

DeMolay Initiation and Installation on June 13th

Dear Masons of Holland Lodge,

It brings me great pleasure to invite you to the initiation of new DeMolay candidates and the Installation of Officers on June 13th.

Thomas Hill will be the new Master Councilor, Carlos DeLoera will be the new Senior Councilor, and Moises Amador will be the Junior Councilor.

The initiatory degree will begin at 3:30 in the Commandery Asylum room on the 2nd floor and the DeMolay Degree will be continued in the 2nd floor Blue Lodge room, and should be completed by 5:00 p.m.

Then our formal installation of officers will begin at 7:30 p.m. in the 2nd floor main lodge room with a reception following downstairs.

We greatly appreciate your generosity of allowing Houston Chapter DeMolay to use the facilities on that day. We are looking forward to having our DeMolay chapter grow in the coming term and we would enjoy the Masons of Holland Lodge sharing and celebrating with us.

Thomas Hill, Master Councilor - elect
Houston Chapter #201 DeMolay

Officers Of Holland Lodge No. 1

		<u>HOME</u>	<u>OFFICE</u>	<u>e-mail</u>
Worshipful Master	Jerry Jones	713-667-2817	713-201-0366	Worshipfulmaster@hollandlodge.org
Senior Warden	Kurtis Kasper	832-216-3519	713-348-3027	Seniorwarden@hollandlodge.org
Junior Warden	Robert Welch	713-526-0029	713-941-7800	Juniorwarden@hollandlodge.org
Treasurer	Emile A. Bussemey	713-729-1348	713-260-7453	Treasurer@hollandlodge.org
Secretary	Phillip von Stephens	281-444-5202	281-444-5202	Secretary@hollandlodge.org
Chaplain	Henry Gonzales	281-799-2045		Chaplain@hollandlodge.org
Senior Deacon	Michael Meier	713-729-6426	713-529-0912	Seniordeacon@hollandlodge.org
Junior Deacon	Ronald Adams	713-681-7359	713-882-3823	Juniordeacon@hollandlodge.org
Senior Steward	Barry Podwin	713-723-5883	281-728-1310	SeniorSteward@hollandlodge.org
Junior Steward	Michael Enmon	281-213-8606	281-728-1310	JuniorSteward@hollandlodge.org
Marshal	Nicolas Evanoff			Marshal@hollandlodge.org
Mstr. Of Ceremonies	Carl Reiley		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	Patrick Porter	713-796-1131	713-294-3704	ImmediatePM@hollandlodge.org

HOLLAND LODGE NO. 1 A.F. & A.M.
 4911 MONTROSE BLVD
 HOUSTON, TEXAS 77006

NON-PROFIT ORG.
 U. S. POSTAGE PAID
 PERMIT NO. 8324
 HOUSTON, TEXAS