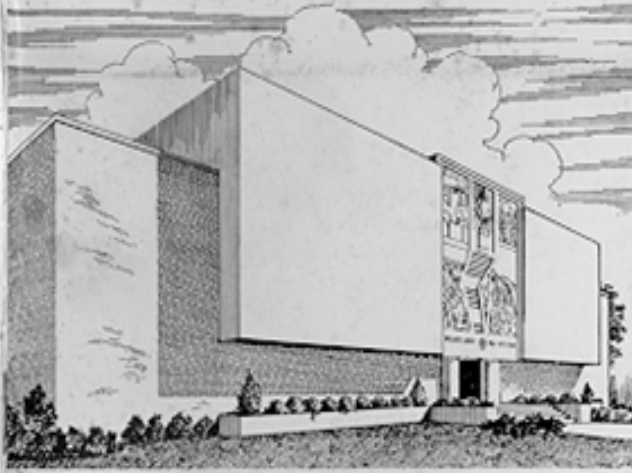


## **THE e-ALPHA**

Holland Lodge No. 1 A.F. & A.M.  
4911 Montrose Boulevard, Houston TX 77006  
(713) 529-0912 www.hollandlodge.org  
March 2004  
Volume 34 Number 9  
Bill Sessums, Jr. P.M. – Editor



### **STATED MEETING**

**March 10 , 2004**

**Dinner at 6:30 P.M.**

**Lodge opens at 7:30 P.M.**

**Program will feature**

**Wor. Brother Thomas B Johson,  
Grand Senior Deacon**

**Assisted by the Brethren of the Lodge will  
demonstrate a Masonic Funeral Service.**

### **Make Plans to be at the Seventh Annual Sam Houston Lecture**

**Will be sponsored by Holland Lodge  
on May 15, 2004.**

**Speaker: Wor. Brother Nelson King, FPS, BF  
Editor of the Philaethes Magazine**

**Will discuss**

***BLACK AND WHITE***

***A HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT OF  
PRINCE HALL MASONRY IN TEXAS***

***This will be an open meeting  
with a cost of \$30 per person.***

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

February has flown by and the Brothers of Holland Lodge were active and enjoying their Fraternity, but asked about their Brothers not seen at Lodge. So come to Lodge and enjoy the Fellowship, Peace & Harmony to be found amongst the Members of our Craft.

Congratulations to Bro. Tom Behrman and the FellowCraft Degree Team. After much work and fine tuning they put on a FellowCraft degree on Saturday, February 14. R.: W.: Tommy Griffin came for the Committee on Work and graded the degree. WOW! The Degree was superb and R.: W.: Griffin indicated so with the highest score he has ever awarded. The FellowCraft Degree has beautiful work and meaning in the Degree. All enjoyed the presentation and meaning put forward in an expert manner by the FellowCraft Degree Team. They should be pleased and Holland Lodge is proud of them for their fine degree work.

February saw Holland Lodge go out into the community and visit the Houston Holocaust Museum to see a special exhibit on the 1936 Olympics and hear two survivors of the Holocaust tell their stories. With some 50 Members, visitors and friends, Holland Lodge was well received and appreciated for the visit.

After the inspirational FellowCraft Degree work, Brother Duncan Chapman, Degree Master for the EA announced that there will be an EA Degree graded soon. If all works out, it is anticipated that it will be on March 31. Don't miss out on another stellar degree.

The schedule listed in the Alpha seems to change no matter how hard I try to do the planning. I recommend that everyone check out the Holland Lodge web-page calendar for updates and do so frequently. Go to <http://www.HollandLodge.org> to check the calendar.

An EA Practice was done on March 1 and all the EAs & FCs were present. There is no better way to teach than to let them see the Degrees. It is what makes us who we are as Masons.

The District Deputy Grand Master Mark Dieckmann will visit on March 3. In addition to delivering the Grand Masters thoughts, R.:W.: Dieckmann will present a state of the Lodges in our District report. Come and learn what other Lodges are doing and their planned activities.

Continued on Page 4...

## *“From the South”*

### VISITATION

Brethren, as threatened in Part III of my Lodge Courtesies topic, in the last Alpha, I indicated that I might write next on the topic of visitation, i.e. going to other Lodges, not only in Houston, but all over the state and even out-of-state and overseas. I amazed myself in sitting down and thinking about the number of Lodges I have visited since becoming a Mason a few years ago.

I roughly count 14 or 15, for example, and not in any particular order, or significance, in Texas, Harmony Lodge #6 (Galveston, TX), San Jacinto Lodge #106 (Willis, TX), Anahuac Lodge #995, Wharton Lodge #621, El Campo #918, Gray Lodge #329, Jacques DeMolay Lodge #1390 (Houston, TX), Anson Jones Lodge #1313 (Houston, TX), Temple Lodge #4 (Houston, TX), East Gate Lodge #1153 (Houston, TX) Temple Lodge #70 (Mt. Pleasant, TX), Bellaire Lodge #1336 (Houston, TX) and 3 9 Walter M. Pierson Lodge #13 (Houston, TX), just to name a few. I have attended stated meetings, called meetings, forums, Grand Master's Conferences, special events and awards presentations, open and closed. Each and every time I was able to enjoy the good fellowship afforded by hospitable Brethren practicing the Craft in their Lodge, with the knowledge that all Masons are welcome and can easily engage in the rituals, work and dialogue.

Two years ago for our family Summer vacation, we visited Pensacola, Florida, where my father had briefly served a stint during WWII while in the Navy. We love to visit, have camped at Fort Pickens National Park and on numerous occasions visited the Navy's Aviation Museum there. This particular summer, I decided to check the web pages of Lodges in Pensacola. On a Tuesday night I went over to Escambia Lodge #15, the oldest Lodge in Pensacola. Wow, what a visit and the first time out-of-state. After being investigated, I attended the monthly stated meeting. Escambia Lodge #15 was located out in the suburbs as you are about to enter Pensacola on I-10, in some rolling hills and a new subdivision. They had just moved into a brand new Lodge building, one story and huge, only a couple of years earlier. I talked with several of the Brethren who discussed what was involved in the oldest Lodge in Pensacola moving from an old 3-story building they had been in downtown for many years. Does any of this sound familiar to you, or at least as potentially happening to Holland Lodge #1 in the not to distant future? I was reassured when they described the process and how well it all worked out. I was able to see 'how they do it' in Florida. They had four Fellowcraft proficiency examinations that night, a pair at a time. I was struck by how although the story is generally the same, the wording varied here and there in many ways, more than I thought would vary. By the way, in Florida they practice the process of waiving the reading of minutes at a meeting. They conducted an entire stated meeting, all the business, four proficiency exams and gave out service awards all in a short period of time. It is amazing to see not only how other Lodges conduct their affairs and what activities are working, but also to see the differentiation among and between Lodges, intrastate and interstate.

At our visit with :.MW Reese L. Harrison a couple of weeks ago, and again during his visit at the Master's, Warden's and Secretaries meeting last week, the inspirational speech of the Grand Master rang home as to how the square and compass is not only a symbol for ordinary Masonic life, but he was profoundly moved to note that it was also a symbol of the unity of our fraternity, a symbol of taking care of our own. We are all bound together, the 'fellowship of the (Masonic) ring', as the award winning movie trilogy goes. The Masonic ring we wear, with the square and compasses on it, demonstrates that we are known by our symbols and bound forever in friendship. Have you ordered your Masonic jewelry lately? I went out after the speeches and am looking for a square and compasses, smaller versions, to put on a charm, pin, or other piece of jewelry, in order to show my wife, son and daughter who they can always look to for help if ever in need.

How recently have you visited a Lodge, Brethren, in the City of Houston, state of Texas, or out-of-state, and treated yourself to an enjoyable experience with your fellow Brethren, enjoying what we have found? I daresay, you are fully capable of attending a Masonic meeting somewhere in Houston almost any day of the week, day or night. I hope each of you will rededicate himself to visiting a Lodge in the very near future. Take a friend and see how other Lodges do it, what they are doing, what they are doing successfully, or not so successfully, and meet your fellow Brethren who you will be seeing at Grand Lodge and at other times for the rest of your Masonic life. Find out about their Lodge and let them know, proudly and humbly, about Holland Lodge #1, a place where Masons meet, and work, and advance the Craft, and have fun!

When are you attending, or even visiting, Holland Lodge #1 next? Very soon, I hope! I want to emphasize that there are many things going on at our Lodge, many of which are noted on our webpage and in the Alpha, both the printed and e-Alpha editions. Thank you Bros. Jeff Burnett and Bill Sessums, Jr. for all you are doing for Holland Lodge #1 and Masonry.

Next month, I may be able to report more on our recent doings at Holland Lodge #1. I want to extend another invitation for each and every one of you to come join us and attend our March, 2004, Stated Meeting this month and take part in our Lodge by your attendance. We need and solicit the dialogue with our Brethren, See you at Holland Lodge No. 1 very soon, I trust.!

**Fraternally, Tom Behrman**

**Welcome to our Newest Affiliated Member!**

**Brother Duke Woodward,**

**P.M. Of Sugar Land Lodge No. 1141 and Current DDGM of District 108!**

## Give Him a Call!

**Our Chaplain, Max Bernstein, who has done a remarkable job as Chaplain in praying for the Lodge and the Members (as Master I have needed his special assistance) has not been feeling well because of a leg nerve issue.**

**I urge all Members of Holland Lodge to keep Max in their prayers as he has done so well for all of us. Further, Max enjoys calls from Masons and Members of Holland Lodge, who Max says are his favorite people.**

**His home phone number is  
713-667-5697.**

## New Endowed Members

Congratulations to our Newly Endowed Members!

Their membership will live beyond their earthly life.

**Brother Clyde E. Sword  
Brother Gregg B. Wood  
Brother George G. Huntoon, III**

## Legal Degree Team?

Worshipful Master Patrick Mahoney has authorized the formation of a Master Mason legal degree team, i.e. one composed entirely of lawyers who are members of Holland Lodge. He has ask Wor. Brother Thomas B. Johnson, Jr., Grand Senior Deacon, to chair the event. A number of Brother attorneys have been contacted and agreed to participate. Any Holland Lodge lawyer not yet contacted may telephone Wor. Bro. Johnson at (713) 528-6792 to "join the legal team." The degree will be conferred in May, 2004 on a "legal candidate" (lawyer).

All Brethren are urged to attend this remarkable event, when it occurs, to monitor the ability of these legal eagles to "please the court" of good King Solomon.

## THE LIFE CYCLE

*Brother Robert Edwin Cowling  
Was lost to us on January 31, 2004  
He was Raised to the Degree of Master Mason  
In Holland Lodge on June 4, 1958*

*Brother Ocren Gordon Newby  
Passed to the Grand Lodge above on December 14, 2003  
He was Raised to the Degree of Master Mason  
In Holland Lodge on March 16, 1033*

*Brother Aubrey Charles Smith  
Died on January 13, 2004  
He was Raised to the Degree of Master Mason  
In Holland Lodge on October 6, 1965*

## LODGE ACTIVITIES

March 1	EA/ FC Festival	April 7	E.A. & F.C. Festival
March 3	<b>Receive our DDGM R.: W.: Mark Deikman</b>	April 11	Easter Sunday
March 8	Holland is Dark	April 12	Holland is Dark
March 10	Stated Meeting	April 14	Stated Meeting
March 15	MM Degree Practice	April 19	Possible Degree Practice
March 17	St Patrick's Day- all Masons are	April 21	Possible Degree
March 22	Irish Today!	April 24	San Jacinto Battleground M.M. Degree
March 24	E.A. Degree	April 26	Holland is Dark
March 29	E.A. Degree	April 28	To Be Determined
March 31	E.A. Degree (possible)	May 3	E.A. & F.C. Festival
April 5	E.A. Degree	May 12	Holland Stated Meeting

**From the East continued...**

At the March Stated Meeting W Grand Senior Deacon Tom Johnson and several Members of Holland who have assisted in performing the Funeral Service this year for departed Brothers will lead a demonstration of the Funeral Service. The Service is especially meaningful as it is the last thing we can do for a departed Brother. Funerals are never called at a convenient day or time but the demonstration will share the meaningfulness of a Masonic Burial. After seeing the Burial Service I recommend you share with your loved ones your desire to have a Masonic Burial Service and also be sure your Lodge knows!

On March 17 Holland Lodge is planning to do a Master Masons Degree. Talk with Bro. Earl Thompson if you would like to participate. Most of the Brothers of Holland Lodge know me to be an Aggie, well on this night, St. Patrick's Day, everyone will be Irish and our newly raised MM will have wonderful memories of the Degree. So come wearin' the Green and enjoy a fine Degree.

The 7th Sam Houston Lecture will be presented on May 15, 2004. The speaker is to be Bro. Nelson King, Editor of the Philaletics Magazine. Bro. King will present his paper on the history of Prince Hall Masonry in the United States and in Texas. We are like the rough ashlar and though education and understanding we may become like the perfect ashlar. The topic is often spoken of but rarely with any real or accurate knowledge. The Lecture will be open to all friends and Masons at a cost of \$30 for dinner and the Lecture. Come and learn as well as grow in understanding.

As a final note our Secretary Phillip von Stephens was married on February 21, 2004 to a delightful Lady, Anita Hunter. No Lodge can operate for long without a good Secretary and Holland Lodge and myself as Master is not exception. Congratulations to Phillip & Anita and may you have a long and happy life together.

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

## 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		Marshall@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		