

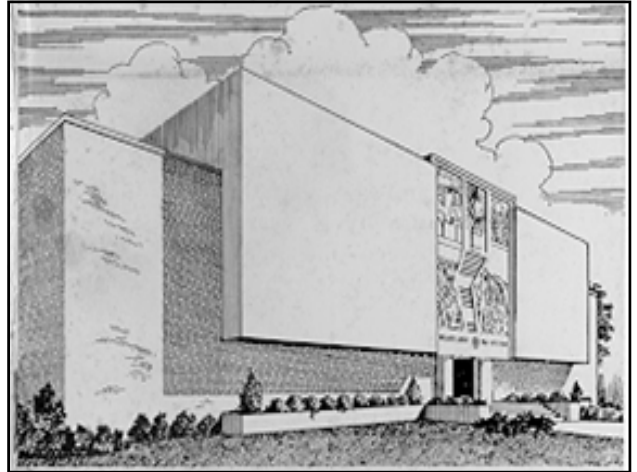
The Alpha
February 2005

Holland Lodge No. 1 A.F. & A.M.
4911 Montrose Boulevard,
Houston TX 77006
(713) 529-0912
www.hollandlodge.org

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Bill Sessums, Jr., P.M. – Editor

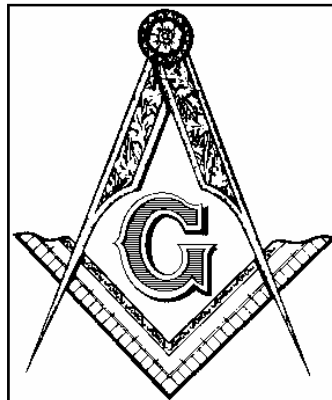
The March Stated Meeting
will be held on
March 9, 2005
Dinner at 6:30 P.M.
Meeting Starts at 7:30 P.M.

Program will feature
Brack Jones, Affiliated Past Master and
member of
The Grand Lodge Jurisprudence Committee



Lodge Activities/Calendar

February 23	FC Degree	March 21	School of Instruction
February 28	School of Instruction	March 23	Degree &/or FC Degree
March 2	Degree Practice FC	March 28	Holland Dark
March 7	School of Instruction	March 30	Degree &/or FC Degree
March 9	Stated Meeting	April 4	School of Instruction
March 14	Holland Lodge Dark	April 6	Golden Trowel Presentation
March 16	EA Degree	April 11	Holland Dark
		April 13	Stated Meeting



From the East...

The February stated was our opportunity to receive the District Deputy Grand Master of District 30 A, of The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Texas - our own Rite Worshipful Patrick D. Mahoney, Junior Past Master of Holland Lodge. R.:W.: Mahoney was received in Grand Fashion and the Brethren did an excellent presentation. Bro. Ron Sisk PM and Bro. Luther van Cleve were the Senior and Junior presenters and the process was smooth and without incidence.

We voted on and approved two new candidates for the degrees of Freemasonry and have a total of seven candidates in the process. EA degrees are the order for February with two planned this month. Come to Holland and see a degree performed by Master Masons from all levels of experience and get involved. I have been told some Brothers are afraid they do not know the work – come and watch a couple of Degree's and it will come back to you. If you received your Masonic Degrees under another Jurisdiction, come to see the Texas program and compare what you have remembered. Most guests are very excited about their visits to Holland and we would love to have more members in attendance meeting on the level with Brethren from all over the world.

Our program at the March Stated will be from Brack Jones, Affiliated Past Master and member of The Grand Lodge Jurisprudence Committee. Bro. Jones will share with us what this very important committee does in its activities – We all hear about the decisions and interpretations as made by the committee. There job is to make sure “WE” do things right and stay out of trouble. I am looking forward to an interesting and informative presentation.

Remember to save April 6 for the presentation of the Golden Trowel to Bro. Emile Bussemey. We are expecting a large turn out to honor Bro. Bussemey for his service to Holland Lodge and all of Texas Masonry.

Later in April we will have an open meeting for the Community Builder Award and in May we plan to have the second annual all attorneys Master Masons Degree.

Things are happening at Holland Lodge No. 1 – Make plans to be a part of the varied activities – Schools of Instruction, Degree practice and Degree Work, special awards and scholarships, Masonic education and training and that Brotherly comradery that makes Masonry what it is and has been – and will be.

Sincerely and Fraternaly

Earl A. Thompson

**Are you an Endowed Member?
Remember, only \$500 for an Endowed Membership!
Congratulations to our newest Endowed member,
Brother Bassem E. Semann**

**Be a part of your Lodge!
How is your resolution to make a meeting, participate in a Degree or
write an article for the Alpha in 2005 going?
There really are a bunch of ways you can be involved...
Your Officers' contact information is on the back if you want ideas on
how you can take part in Holland Lodge!**

**From the South
J.W. Duncan Chapman**

Is the leadership of the Masonic Fraternity trying turn us into a Rotary club, Lions Club or PTA? While all of those organizations have quality reasons for existing, they cannot compare with the Masonic Fraternity! Do we want to become just another name on a long list of do good civic associations?

When we become an open society, and public opinion is that we are just a bunch of good old boys meeting and learning about ancient rituals will there be reasons for anyone to want to join. After all why would anyone want to attend meetings to learn ritual, especially ritual that everyone knows about. Why you could stay at home and play fantasy football and probably have more fun.

I have said for years the reason I joined was because it was mysterious, it was good guys doing good things without being acknowledged, patted on the back or even wanting any type of gratification. The men that I knew, Mr. Brogdon, (my boss) Mr. Knox, (my banker) Mr. Hardy, (my car dealer) Mr. Selzer (my plumbing supplier) and my Grandfather (Mr. Cox) were instrumental in my life. They steered me in the right direction, gave advice when I needed it and helped when they could, never asking for anything in return. I looked up to those men and wanted very much to be just like them, I watched them, emulated them and noticed that each of them wore a Masonic ring.

One day I asked Mr. Brogdon what I had to do to get to be a Mason, his answer was the same as mine is today. I THOUGHT YOU WOULD NEVER ASK! So is there to much publicity? Is there to much information about the Masons being made public? Is our leadership headed in the wrong direction? Are we, in the interest of increasing membership, taking in men that should not be Masons? Would they have been accepted 10, 20, 30 or 150 years ago?

I ask these questions because I want you to think about where we are headed and what we will become, our entire organization is changing, why in some states, in an effort to increase membership, they are making masons in one day, I contend that it takes years to make a good Mason and you have to start with a good man.

Where do you want Masonry to be in 10 years or 20 or 30 or 150 years?

Are you willing to sell off what has always worked, just to increase membership, so we can pay to operate the machine we have created?

Continued...

**From the South
Continued**

I don't know all the answers but I do know this, someone that is not concerned with the cost to operate Masonry should take a long hard look at where we are going, what we are becoming and what we will stand for in the future.

Our Leadership will tell you that times are changing. Makes me wonder what George Washington was thinking when he crossed the Delaware. Times were changing then and will be changing tomorrow.

I for one do not think we should change something that has worked for Masonry for over 500 years. To become a Mason you should have to ask a Mason and be considered based on your Character and NOT considered and accepted because you can write a dues check! You should learn the secrets of the organization and be mentored by other Masons so that you understand the nature of Masonry, Our Fraternity!

**Welcome to Our
Newest Affiliated Members**

**James A. Passamano
&
Allen R. Voss, Jr.**

We will miss our departed Brothers...

Charles L. Baskett, Sr.

George O'Hara

Lewis E. Torrance

Really, Help Still wanted...

**A number of Brethren have stepped up
and emailed me some great articles!**

**So that we may begin a series,
contributions to the Lodge Newsletter
are still being requested!**

**Please fax or email your article today!
Fax 713-271-8794 or billjr@insper.com**

Officers Of Holland Lodge No. 1

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