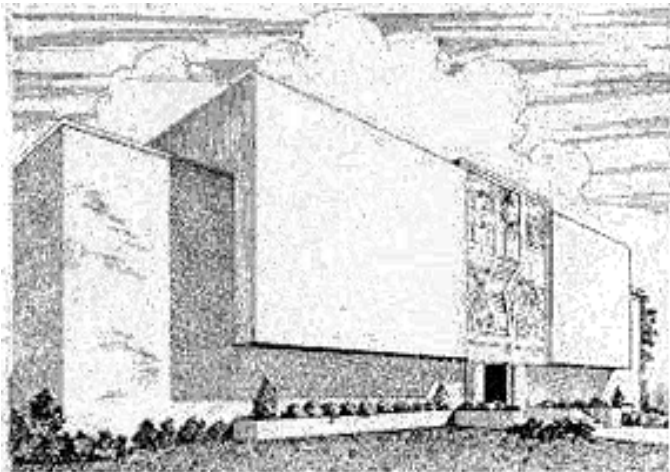


The Alpha

Holland Lodge No. 1 A.F. & A.M.
4911 Montrose Boulevard,
Houston TX 77006
(713) 529-0912
www.hollandlodge.org
March 2006
Volume 36 Number 9
Bill Sessums, Jr. P.M. – Editor



**Stated Meeting
March 8, 2006
Dinner at 6:30 P.M.
Lodge opens at 7:30 P.M.**

Remember this Month:

**2006 Holland Lodge No. 1
Golden Trowel Award
Mark J. Sandler, P.M.
Wednesday, March 15, 2006**

**9th Annual Sam Houston Lecture
Dr. Margaret C. Jacob, UCLA Distinguished
Professor of History
Saturday, March 25, 2006**

**“Bring a Friend to Lodge,”
Masonic Information Night
at Holland Lodge No. 1
Program by Bro. Harry Madeira, P.M.
Monday, March 13, 2006**

Remember Next Month:

**4th Annual Holland Lodge #1 College Scholarship Award
and The Lamar Awards Program**

Tom Behrman, Worshipful Master

Holland Lodge No.1: 1835-2005
170 years of Masonry in Texas

NOTICE OF TOWN HALL MEETING

at Holland Lodge No. 1

Date: Saturday, March 4, 2006

Time: 10:00 a.m. to noon,

Location: Holland Lodge No. 1, 4911 Montrose Blvd.
Houston, Texas 77006.

Purpose: To discuss the **real estate** situation at Holland Lodge No. 1.

Brethren, based on the various discussions, questions and comments at previous meetings involving the Lodge real estate situation and the ongoing work of the Strategic Planning Committee (“SPC”), the SPC has set **Saturday, March 4, 2006, at the Lodge**, beginning at **10:00 a.m.**, as the date, place and time for a town hall format meeting for any and all members to attend in order to express their views with respect to the present and future real estate situation of our Lodge. The SPC will be reporting on the status of the Lodge real estate and this will be your opportunity to provide ideas, suggestions, options and alternatives, to engage in a dialogue and to ask and answer questions involving the present and future of our Lodge. Please come prepared to participate. Coffee, but no meal, will be served. This is your chance to listen and be heard, to engage in a discussion and to participate in the future of your Lodge. This is an important matter to all members of Holland Lodge and we look forward to your being present on March 4.

We had a great visit with and message from our District 30A **District Deputy Grand Master, R. W. Tom Staton**, at the Stated meeting last month. He spoke with us about the Grand Master’s emphasis this year on the “4 F’s” (fraternity, fellowship friendship and fun) and encouraged us to ‘bring a friend’ to Lodge. We should take time out at an upcoming meeting, or degree, to bring one of our Brethren who may not have attended Lodge in a while, picking him up at home or office, and bringing him with you to Lodge. We also had a great time recognizing, honoring and celebrating with our 50-year service award recipients who were present, Bros. **Raymond Donald Mapp**, Freeport, Texas; **Paul Elroy Compton**, Houston, Texas; and **Wayne Edward Glenn**, Houston, Texas, their families and friends.

March continues to be a busy month at Holland, with at least a couple of degrees scheduled and several special events as well. In addition to the March 4 town hall meeting on the real estate issue, at his suggestion Bro. Harry Madeira has volunteered to put on another Masonic information night, to follow-up on the Grand Master’s suggestion to “Bring a Friend” to Lodge. At this time, planned to coincide with schools Spring break, on **Monday, March 13, 2006**, Bro. Madeira will introduce those interested to Masonry in general and to Holland Lodge #1 in particular. This will be an opportune time to bring someone, son, relative, or a friend to Holland to learn about becoming a part of our Craft and Lodge. This will also serve to bring an existing Mason, who may not have attended Lodge in a number of years, to reacquaint him with Masonry. After talking with those new to Masonry, we can work separately with those who may have forgotten their esoteric work and want to refresh and renew their knowledge, familiarity and skills.

Continued on page 2

We all have stories as to why we decided to join Masonry. For this article I will describe mine.

In 2001, I had just finished college and started my first job, I was dating a girl whose family lived in Austin and I was visiting my family and hers one weekend. It just so happened that my Grandfather had aneurysm surgery during the middle of the week so I was also going to use that trip to visit him in the hospital.

So I found the hospital, and as I arrived they were wheeling him to get a CAT scan because the doctors were worried that something was wrong. While I was waiting with my grandmother for him to return, I met a couple who had come to visit him as well. Apparently, this man was a Mason, though I didn't know it at the time.

Well, when my grandfather was getting the CAT scan his heart stopped. They revived him, but the damage had been done. I was the one that took the phone calls and the one that had to make the calls to let people know that my grandfather was in a coma and that the chances of him coming out were really small. I thank God to this day that I was around for my grandmother at that time.

Well, days after we had a funeral and after the funeral in typical Porter fashion we had a gathering/party at my grandparent's house. While we were standing around B.S.ing my and my brothers were reading the obituary. In it we found out that my grandfather was a 32 degree Mason. Not fully realizing what that meant we asked my grandmother, and she confirmed it. She also strongly suggested that one of us follow in my grandfather's footsteps. Well, apparently, between my brothers and me, I was chosen. I was the only one of age, and if you have ever met my brothers the only one likely to be easily acceptable.

And so it began... My grandmother informed the friend that I had met at the hospital the week before that I was interested in becoming a Mason. This friend of my grandfather's was named Woody. Well, Woody apparently knew Weldon Clampitte. Bro. Weldon told me to show up at the back door of Holland Lodge and ask for Luther Van Cleave. I was told that the lodge was on Montrose. Well, those from the Houston area know that the street often has certain connotations and so I was a little suspicious. I bunch of guys meeting twice a week in the Montrose area...I wasn't entirely sure what I might be getting into. I had no "real" idea as to what Masonry was, my best resource had just been laid in a grave and he had *never* talked about it.

Four or five months later on some afternoon in February, a month after half of my company had been laid-off the month before, I actually made it to that back door. I figured in the current economic state, it was never a bad thing to meet new people or make new friends. I walked in the door, found Luther and proceeded to meet the general cast of characters, and was told to stay for dinner. Dinner was pretty good and so I decided it couldn't be all bad and figured it wouldn't be a bad thing to come back.

Fraternally, Patrick Porter, J.W.

Also this month, on **Wednesday, March 15, 2006** (the Ides of March), do not forget that we will be honoring Bro. **Mark Sandler, PM**, with the **Golden Trowel Award**. This is the highest tribute a Lodge can bestow on one of its members and we are all looking forward to a fun evening with Mark and the entire Sandler family to recognize and honor one of our own. I am not sure Mark is fully prepared for the roast, or should I say toast, but we should all have a great time.

This month will also mark the ninth year in a row of the Jeff Burnett, PM, inspired **Sam Houston Lecture** series. Please plan on attending on **Saturday, March 25, 2006**, the **9th Annual Sam Houston Lecture**, with our guest lecturer, **Dr. Margaret C. Jacob**, Distinguished Professor of History at UCLA. Professor Jacob will present a PowerPoint presentation on the topic "**Masonic Secrecy and the Paradox at the Heart of Modernity.**" We have also made arrangements with the publisher for Dr. Jacob's new book, "**The Origins of Freemasonry: Facts & Fiction,**" to be available for sale at a discount. The recently released book lists for \$26.50 and we will be able to offer the new book at the reduced price of \$18.00. Dr. Jacob will be autographing books before the lecture. As before, the lecture will be open to visiting brethren, spouses, families and friends. This is a rare opportunity to bring your spouse and daughters to Lodge, since we have our first woman speaker in this series. Dr. Jacobs has researched and written extensively on the history of Freemasonry and her speech should be entertaining and enlightening to both the Mason and non-Mason alike. The lecture brochure (and reservation form) is now available, and is included with this issue of the *Alpha*, and can also be accessed at our Holland Lodge #1 website, **www.HollandLodge.org** Get your reservations and book requests in early. The meal will be catered again and, yes, there will be plenty of good food for all (assuming you get your reservation and check in timely).

Brethren, I hope you all will plan on attending Lodge at some point in time this month. There is much to do, much to discuss and a great deal of work to do. Your involvement is essential to our Lodge, whether it be in discussing the very important issues of our future, or the day-to-day work of putting on degrees or instruction of our candidates. Whether it be the town hall meeting, our special events, or the critical advancement of our candidates, all of these activities are important to a vital and vibrant Lodge. Your involvement is essential to Holland Lodge #1. I look forward to seeing you this month at Lodge.

Fraternally, Tom Behrman, W.M.

HONORS TO HOLLAND

Congratulations to our Sr. Deacon, Bro. **Eugene Box Wright**, PC, who has now received his **Meritorious Service Award** from the Grand Commandery of Texas for his past service as the Eminent Commander of Ruthven Commandery No. 2, KT
And

Congratulations to our Jr. Past, Bro. **Earl A. Thompson, III**, PM, who was recently elected to the statewide office as **Secretary-Treasurer** of The Texas Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors

Have you received any community awards or have you been elected or recognized by your peers? Let us know!
Your name could be in this box soon!

News from the Secretary

The Grand Lodge of Texas is interested in obtaining Military Information for each Brother for the Military Books in the Memorial Library at Grand Lodge in Waco.

If you would like to submit your information call or email the Secretary for the proper form/application to use.

Hope to see you at Lodge soon, there are a lot of degrees and works going on that you can take part in or just enjoy watching!

Your Alpha is available on line at
www.HollandLodge.org

Don't be left out...send me an email so that you can be added to our email distribution list for the e-Alpha and other Lodge notices.

sessumsjr@gmail.com

IN CASE YOU MISSED THE
ANNOUNCEMENT

The W.M. and the SPC is hosting a "TOWN HALL MEETING"

Date: Saturday, March 4, 2006 --- 10:00 a.m. to noon,
at Holland Lodge No. 1, 4911 Montrose Blvd.

Purpose: To discuss the **real estate** situation of the Lodge.

Lodge Activities/Calendar

March, 2006 —

March 1	Wednesday -	Master Mason's Degree
March 4	Saturday -	Holland Lodge #1 Town Hall Meeting
March 6	Monday -	Dark
March 8	Wednesday -	HL #1 March Stated Meeting
March 13	Monday -	EA & FC SOI; and/or "Bring a Friend to Lodge," Masonic Information Night [tentative];
March 15	Wednesday -	HL #1 Golden Trowel Award
March 20	Monday -	EA & FC SOI; Degree practice, or Degree
March 22	Wednesday -	Dark {MWS}
March 25	Saturday -	9th Annual Sam Houston Lecture
March 27	Monday -	EA & FC SOI; EA Degree practice
March 29	Wednesday -	EA Degree

April, 2006 —

April 2	Sunday -	{ Daylight Savings Time begins }
April 3	Monday -	EA & FC SOI, certificate work; EA/FC Degree practice
April 5	Wednesday -	EA or FC Degree
April 10	Monday -	Dark
April 12	Wednesday -	HL #1 April Stated Meeting

Officers Of Holland Lodge No. 1

		<u>HOME</u>	<u>OFFICE</u>	<u>e-mail</u>
Worshipful Master	Tom Behrman	713- 721-6003	713-339-9420	WorshipfulMaster@HollandLodge.org
Senior Warden	Duncan Chapman	281- 447-8200	832- 212-3181	SeniorWarden@HollandLodge.org
Junior Warden	Patrick Porter	713- 796-1131	713- 316-4961	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	713-667-5697	Max.bernstein@lswc.net
Senior Deacon	Eugene Wright	281-593-1867	281-592-6446	SeniorDeacon@HollandLodge.org
Junior Deacon	Wael Semaan	713-530-9786	713-530-9786	JuniorDeacon@HollandLodge.org
Senior Steward	Michael Orr	713-290-1934	713-613-2830	SeniorSteward@HollandLodge.org
Junior Steward	Charlie Dreizin	713-524-7039	713-524-7039	JuniorSteward@HollandLodge.org
Marshal	Collin Keel	713-799-2735	713-942-8000	Marshall@HollandLodge.org
Mstr. Of Ceremonies	Duke Keller	281-497-6019	281-589-9010	MasterCeremonies@HollandLodge.org
Musician	Rodney Elliot	713- 236-0359	713-236-0359	Rodney@CommerceStreet.org
Tiler	Budd Baumgardner	713- 666-3625	713-666-3625	Tiler@Hollandlodge.org
Immediate PM	Earl A Thompson, III	713-466-8452	281-893-0550	eat003@wans.net

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