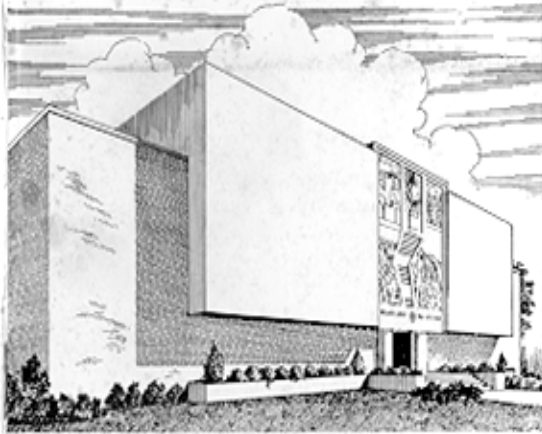


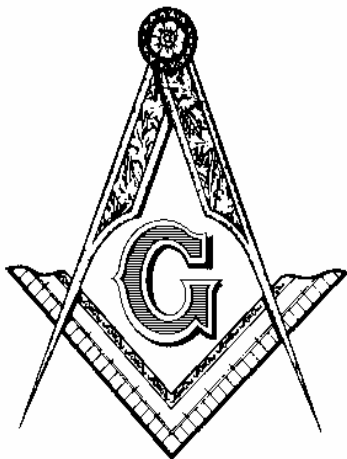
# The Alpha

**Holland Lodge No. 1 A.F. & A.M.**  
**4911 Montrose Boulevard,**  
**Houston TX 77006**  
**(713) 529-0912**  
**[www.hollandlodge.org](http://www.hollandlodge.org)**  
**March 2007**  
**Volume 37 Number 9**  
**Bill Sessums, Jr. P.M. – Editor**



**Stated Meeting:**  
**March 14, 2007**  
**Dinner at 6:30 p.m.**  
**Lodge opens at 7:30 p.m.**

Please join us for Dinner  
&  
for the Stated Meeting where the  
business of Your Lodge is conducted!



## From the East...

Brethren, I do not wish to sell Holland Lodge, neither do I want to see it lost due to our inability to pay our tax's. I am concerned that the day may soon come when we will not have the means to continue the payment of our tax's at the current tax rates.

February 14th, Valentines Day 2007 and the February Stated Meeting, the officers of Holland Lodge brought to you a proposal from The Randall Davis Company. Mr. Davis is one of Houston's premier developers and was in fact the savior of the Rice Hotel. Last year during the attempted sale of our facility, one of the complaints from the Brethren was that there was no "exit strategy" in place. This new proposal from Randall Davis Company provides an exit strategy, meaning a way that we could sell this property, construct a new facility and then relocate and have the funds available to provide for future tax payments.

I will explain what could happen should you chose this route. #1: Property in the surrounding area that is not located on a major thoroughfare is currently selling for \$50.00 per square foot. There are several 1 ACRE TRACTS available. #2: Randall Davis Company has agreed to pay 12 million for our location. #3 Randal Davis Company has offered to construct a new building of our design at no profit to either himself or the builder with payment to be made after the project as been completed. #4 This would allow an organized move and include the relocation of our McVey (the front façade of the building.) #5 This would augment our cash reserves and allow us the ability to meet our future tax liability for some years to come. I can and will e-Mail a copy of the proposal from Mr. Davis to any brother/member requesting it. I can and will have Mr. Davis present himself to the lodge to answer your questions. The following is my opinion of what our tax situation would be if we decided to build in the vicinity, Please note all cost provided are estimates and or my opinion. Purchase 1 acre in the vicinity at \$50.00 psf = \$2,178,000.00, Construction cost for a new facility including parking \$3,000000.00 Total cost \$5,178,000.00 Tax's on a \$5,178000 property at today's 3% rate \$155,340.00 estimated. Remaining moneys after the sell and construction cost would be \$5,833,340.00 With the remaining money in the bank, at our current rates, of 6.35% interest \$5,800000.00 would return and annual increase of \$370,417.00 this would provide enough money to pay our tax's and leave a substantial amount in the bank at the end of each year.

Brethren, all of the above is possible only if it is what you want to do. There is another proposal that should be available after the publication of this Alpha. I will call a meeting for the purpose of keeping you, (the members) informed about this as it happens. Remember Brethren you are Holland Lodge, You make up the membership and are what we are, it is up to you to make the correct decision about the future of our lodge. Study hard, study long and please do not be duped into selling our lodge without a workable solution for our future.

Worshipful Master Duncan Charles Chapman

## From the South...

As we all know, Grand Master Donnie Broughton made his first official visit to Holland Lodge last month. The Eastern Star ladies worked tirelessly starting early that morning and into the night to see that the evening was a success. After the meal, and after everyone had gone upstairs., those ladies stayed on and washed the dishes, pots and pans and cleaned the kitchen and dining room. . Without them I doubt we could have pulled it off . The brothers from Garden Oaks Lodge brought their portable steak cooking rig over and grilled a bunch of steaks for all to enjoy. And enjoy we did! The Stewards got the diner out on the line with the help of our young brothers from Houston Chapter 201 Order of Demolay. Later, the crowd began to move to the second floor and the lodge room began to fill with people. Lots of people! People I have never seen before and chances are will never see again. There were at least two rows of portable folding chairs on the main floor in front of the regular blue seats. The lodge room was filled to capacity. There were 257 people there in that room. It was indeed a grand sight! The Grand Lodge officers were received and introduced in due and ancient form. Other notables were also introduced by Worshipful Master Chapman, including our own members, District Deputy Grand Master Mark Love, and Committee on work member Bill Sessums.

As I sat there on my station in the South and listened to the proceedings I heard a brother sitting behind me whisper to another "are we having fun yet?" At that time I took another look around. I noticed how nicely everyone was dressed. The Lodge officers were wearing their tuxedos, white shirts and bow ties accompanied by the jewels and aprons of their offices. The crowd assembled there were obviously enjoying themselves, if I was reading the expressions on their faces correctly, and I believe I was, it was a very pleasant evening for all. It was fun!

As I look back on my journey through Masonry I realize that I have always enjoyed the opening and closing of the different lodges, and the ritual accompanying those events. The sameness of the ritual is comforting. I enjoy the degrees and especially conferring degrees upon new candidates. Many of those new Masons have told me (sometimes years later) that they will never forget that night when they saw me standing before them wearing that black Fedora. That was fun!

For one year I worked in the kitchen as Holland Lodge's Senior Steward. For fifty-two weeks I prepared two meals per week and almost always from scratch. It was very hard work. At that time I was sixty-five years old! The day of a stated meeting would begin about 10 or 11 A.M. and would last until 10 or 11 that night. I would stop work for a few minutes and make an appearance in the Lodge room while the stated meeting was in progress. When I walked into the room the brethren would often stand and clap and give a cheer or two. That made it all worth while. That was my reward. And I loved it! When one spends twelve to fourteen hours in the kitchen at Holland Lodge he sleeps well, and all night! The year I spent in the kitchen was one of the most satisfying experiences of my Masonic career. I wouldn't trade the time I spent there for all the tea in China. It was great fun!

Masonic funerals as are all such events are very sad and stressful times not only for the brethren attending those funerals but for me as well. I am privileged to be able deliver the Masonic Oration, and do so at many funerals. This oration is usually given at the graveside of a fallen brother. Most of the funerals in which I have participated were done for other lodges, courtesy funerals, some from other lodges here in Houston and some from Lodges in other cities and states I wish could say that was fun, but trust me brethren it is no fun for this Mason. However, when Brother Owen Popham and other men that stood at my side during those times say to me "that was good, Jerry", it is all worth while. I don't enjoy funerals, but I love the work.

Masonry is and has always been something I have enjoyed from the very beginning. I like coming to the lodge and enjoying the company and fellowship which it provides for me, which I could not find anywhere else that I know of. I could go on and on with this subject. But, I think you get my point. It is now 03:34 A.M. My screen seems to be moving around and the type is beginning to look a bit blurred. And I see that I am beginning to run out of space (again). I hope I can see more of you in Lodge in the coming days and weeks. I can assure you without going into detail that the coming weeks and months will be charged with excitement. I wouldn't miss it for the world! I will be the guy in the South. And, rest assured gentlemen, I'll be having the time of my life!

**Jerry Brainard Jones, J.W. Holland Lodge Number One, Houston, Texas**

### **Your Alpha needs your input!**

If you have any articles or topics you would like published in the Alpha let us know or better yet, get to typing!

## From the Secretary

Brethren, the increase in the cost of an Endowed Membership from \$500 to \$1,200 will become effective on June 23, 2007 at Midnight. This was voted on in Lodge on February 14th, 2007. If you wish to have an Endowed Membership please take note of this change and act soon! Remember, an endowed membership continues to support your Lodge well after you have "gone to the Grand Lodge above."

Your Lodge has set up a Google Group known as the hollandlodgeofsorrow. Members are invited and encouraged to sign on as a member of this group. The purpose of this Google Group is to inform you of the death of one of our members. The notice will give information as to who, when, where, and time of funeral. Please sign onto this group so you can be kept informed.

### **How Do Masons Compute the Masonic Year?**

Between the creation of the world, according to sacred chronology, and the advent of Christ, 4,000 years intervene; Thus A.L. 2006 added to 4000 gives the Masonic year, 6006. The Masonic era commences with the creation of the world (Anno Mundi), or Masonically expressed, (Anno Lucis), year of light or year of the Lodge. Gen 1:1 (7)

## Welcome to our new Affiliated Members

Nicholas Rocha  
&  
Christopher M. Revell

## **We will miss our departed Brothers...**

Billy E. Blankenship  
Raised 1/19/1949, Passed away February 6, 2007

Charles D Browder, Jr.  
Raised 3/9/1046 Passed away January 22, 2007

Gaines F. Moore  
Raised 8/17/1945, Passed away January 11, 2007

## Upcoming Meetings

March 14, 2007 Stated Meeting  
April 7th 10 Annual Sam Houston Lecture  
April 11, 2007 Stated Meeting  
May 9, 2007 Stated Meeting  
June 13, 2007 Stated Meeting

Please check the website at  
[www.HollandLodge.org](http://www.HollandLodge.org) for updates  
and meeting announcements.

**Please take a moment and review the enclosed Sam Houston Lecture Brochure.**

**This year the cost is a little less to attend and it promises to be a fantastic presentation by Bro. Archie McDonald!**

**So that the Lodge can prepare properly we need your RSVP by April 5th!  
Please don't wait until the last moment to let us know that we can count you to attend!**

## Officers Of Holland Lodge No. 1

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Worshipful Master	Duncan Chapman	281- 447-8200	832- 212-3181	dcc624@yahoo.com
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Treasurer	Emile A.Bussemey	713- 729-1348	713- 260-7453	bizme@sbcglobal.net
Secretary	Phillip von Stephens	713- 723-2009	713-723-2009	pvs@insurer.com
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Junior Deacon	Michael Orr, Jr.	832-477-3624	832-477-3624	michelorr@gmx.de
Senior Steward	Kurtis Kasper	832-216-3519	713-348-3027	kasper@rice.edu
Junior Steward	Christopher Clemence	832-466-1803	832-466-1803	conagher78@yahoo.com
Marshal	Duke Keller	281-497-6019	281-589-9000	dkeller@kellerallenlaw.com
Mstr. Of Ceremonies	Carl Reilly	713-474-2223	713-474-2223	ctreilly@gmail.com
Musician	Rodney Elliott	713- 236-0359	713-236-0359	rodney@CommerceStreet.org
Tiler	Budd Baumgardner	713- 666-3625	713-666-3625	None
Immediate PM	Tom Behrman	713- 721-6003	713-339-9420	tbehrman@mindspring.com

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