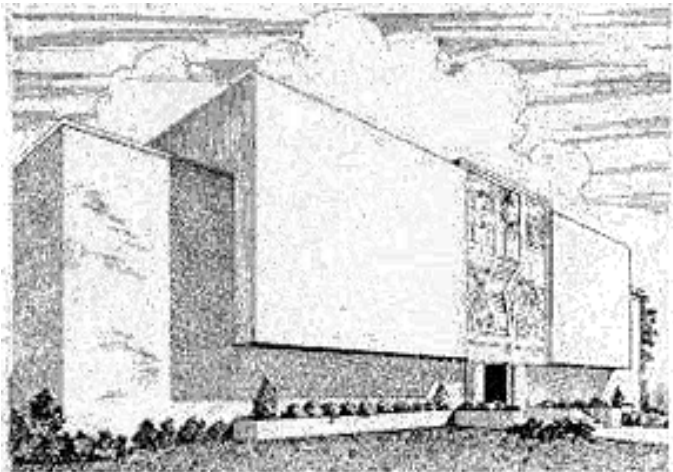


## The Alpha

Holland Lodge No. 1 A.F. & A.M.  
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[www.hollandlodge.org](http://www.hollandlodge.org)  
May 2006  
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Bill Sessums, Jr. P.M. – Editor



### Stated Meeting

May 10, 2006

Dinner at 6:30 P.M.

Lodge opens at 7:30 P.M.

#### Program:

Programs: Past Masters' Night ---

Honoring the Past Masters of Holland Lodge No. 1  
and

A Masonic talk by our newest Master Mason,  
Bro. Samuel Harris Peters

*Remember this Month:*

#### Portrait Ceremony:

R.: W.: Reese L. Harrison  
and Lawyers' Master Mason's Degree  
Wednesday, May 17, 2006

*Also remember this Month:*

Annual Holland Lodge #1 Community  
Builder Award ---

Drs. June Holly and Bill Harrison  
Monday, May 22, 2006

## Tom Behrman, Worshipful Master

Holland Lodge No.1: 1835-2005

*170 years of Masonry in Texas*

*Brethren*, we had an active April and it looks like a packed May at Holland. We all enjoyed one of the most successful, well attended and interesting of our Sam Houston Lecture series this past month when we welcomed our guest lecturer, historian and author **Dr. Margaret C. Jacob**, Distinguished Professor of History at UCLA, for the **9<sup>th</sup> Annual Sam Houston Lecture**. Dr. Jacob, who recently appeared on the ABC *Good Morning America* series on freemasonry, made an entertaining and informative PowerPoint presentation and speech on the topic "*Masonic Secrecy and the Paradox at the Heart of Modernity*." She personally autographed her newest book, "*The Origins of Freemasonry: Facts & Fiction*," which was made available for purchase at a discount to the brethren and our guests.

That wonderful learning experience was followed by our third **Third Monday Program** this year, in which Bro., Dr. and Rev. John Fellers, the former minister at St. Paul's United Methodist Church, a neighbor of Holland and the church home of several of our members, spoke on his approach to writing history and presented the Lodge with a copy of his book, the extensive and beautiful history of St. Paul's, entitled "*Writing History: The Story of an American Cathedral*." I want to thank Bros. **Andy Deas** and **Marvin Peterson** for working so hard this year to continue to bring us the enlightening experience of the Third Monday series. The celebration of Bro. **Mark Sandler** as our **Golden Trowel Award** recipient was a very enjoyable evening for all. Congratulations again, Mark.

The next 30-45 days looks ominous from the standpoint of degree work at the Lodge. We are looking at 2 Fellowcraft degrees and 3 Master Mason degrees. Once again, I want to remind you that our degree masters may be calling on you and we need your participation in these degrees. We continue to need our members as instructors and your active participation in helping our candidates through the learning process to become a MM is very important. Please let us hear from you on how you can participate and help.

This month also is packed with special events and other activities too. On **Wednesday, April 26, 2006**, for the first time in years Holland Lodge will celebrate Texas Masonry's long standing support of public education by honoring and recognizing two outstanding HISD principals and educators, Ms. **Carol Ann Selig** and Ms. **Arlene Brenner**, respectively the principals at **Parker Elementary** and **Gordon Elementary**. Parker Elementary School is a magnet school for music and Gordon is a school for at risk and economically disadvantaged students. Both schools are in southwest Houston and have been recognized by HISD and the TEA. Both principals have been outstanding educators, administrators and members of the community. Holland is honored to recognize them both with the **Mirabeau B. Lamar Award**. The medals will be presented on the same evening that the Lodge awards its **4<sup>th</sup> Holland Lodge No. 1 College Scholarship**. Our annual scholarship this year will go to a deserving graduating senior from **John H. Reagan Senior High School**, a long time neighbor of Holland in the historic Houston Heights. If you recall the last couple of years of giving out this scholarship, you will know the great fun and pride enjoyed by all in celebrating this evening of recognition of public education. Please join us on that night.

On **Monday, May 22, 2006**, Holland Lodge will

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I recently received the following story in an email from a friend and a brother and I think that it accurately represents why I got more involved in this organization.

The story:

I would hope that most of us would do our best for anyone. At the Festive Board following my initiation, one of the speakers told the apocryphal story about the chap who's car got stuck in a flood on his way to a lodge meeting. A passing farmer stopped and towed him clear of the water, on shaking hands to thank him the driver noticed a familiar grip. "Oh, I see," he said, "You saw my black tie and briefcase and helped me because I'm a Mason - thanks."

"No my good Brother," the farmer replied, "I helped you because I am a Mason."

The reason I really like this story is so often I get kidded by my friends and peers that I'm entitled to special privileges due to the fact that I'm a Mason. The privilege of Masonry in one fashion is that I have an excuse to do "good" in the world around me. So often "help" is regarded in a cynical fashion; we expect strings attached to every offer. I myself fall prey to that mentality as well, but I try to work on it.

I was once referred to as a "Guardian Angel" for a couple who had just gotten married. Granted, the person who told me this was the mother of the bride, and she had celebrated in the most exuberant of fashions, but it was a compliment that has always touched me. How did I earn this title? Simply being a friend, helping when those folks needed help. Did I do this because I was a Mason? Of course not, I did this because those were my friends. Friendship is one of the tenants that our fraternity is founded on.

I might be one of the worst recruiters in the history of the fraternity (not that recruiting is condoned as far as I know). I quietly go to Lodge. I make no-pressure invites to the various open-meetings we have to my friends and family. I also believe that during the last investigation I did, if it had been "recorded for quality purposes" I would have had to be sent to customer service school. (Honesty is sometimes not always the best sales tool.)

How do I try and get members? Well, I am relying on the long-term sales effect. Living my life as best I can in a "Masonic" fashion; helping friends that need the help, showing tolerance in every situation and keeping my desires in check. My newest motto is: "Complain about nothing that I'm not willing to take direct action to correct." My hope is that by living with these ideals and quietly being the kind of person that the world hopefully needs more of I can earn the respect of those that might actively seek initiation.

Who knew that a twenty-something could be a long-range thinker...

**Fraternally, Patrick Porter, J.W.**

present the **GLOT Community Builder Awards** to **June S. Holly, Ed. D.**, and **William T. Harrison, M.D.**, a husband/wife tag team who in retirement have dedicated their lives to years of outreach work on behalf of the homeless, sick and poor both in Houston and in Mexico. June and Bill have worked tirelessly in the Lord of the Streets Episcopal Mission and the Community of Hope programs as lay ministers for the homeless, sick and bereaved. This is our opportunity to recognize their outstanding service to the community and humanity. I hope you will attend, hear their story and participate in honoring them.

Do not forget that the Stated Meeting for May is our traditional **Past Masters' Night**. Since we have not had steaks this year, I have put in a request to the Senior Steward for steaks that night. There has never been a Past Masters' Night that I did not learn something new from the PMs of Holland Lodge. I hope you will be there to listen to their memories and comments. Following recent tradition, I have asked our newest Master Mason, Bro. Sammy Peters, to make a brief presentation to Lodge on a Masonic research topic.

For the 3rd year in a row, we are planning on a **Lawyers' Master Masons Degree**. The team is being put together by Bro. **Tom B. Johnson** and we are fortunate to welcome back for his second time to confer the degree past Grand Master, **R.: W.: Reese L. Harrison**. On the same evening we will be unveiling the Grand Lodge portrait of **R.: W.: Harrison** among the portraits of past GMs and members of Holland in our Lodge room. The **unveiling** will be an open meeting, followed by the **Lawyers' Master Masons Degree** and will take place on **Wednesday, May 17, 2006**. Please plan on attending and if you are a lawyer member of Holland, if Tom has not already contacted you to participate, please let us know so that we can get you involved. It looks like our candidate for the MM degree is a soon to be lawyer himself. It should be a fun evening and a chance to see lawyers performing as Masons instead of as attorneys.

In addition to hanging the portraits of **R.: W.: David B. Dibrell** and **R.: W.: Reese L. Harrison** this year, hopefully before the end of next month we will also be hanging the portrait of past Grand Master, **R.: W.: Elmer Murphey III**, which would mean the last three Grand Masters of all Masons in Texas. We are working with **R.: W.: Murphey** to arrange for a convenient date for the ceremony at Holland. These are outstanding honors to our members and to Holland, and magnificent additions to our expanding portrait gallery.

Brethren, please do not forget the Saturday, May 6, 2006, Calendar Dinner sponsored by our sisters and brothers of **Houston Chapter #385** of the **Order of the Eastern Star**. This event is a fundraiser for the purchase of an ice machine for the use of all the Masonic bodies which meet at Holland. It is a good cause and deserves our support and attendance. **W.: M.: Sandy Kelly** and **Past W.: M.: Blanche Maples** will be cooking up a storm in the kitchen and decorating the dining room to the hilt. I and Bro. Larry Batchelor will be working in the kitchen as well and it will be a great way to eat a terrific lunch on that Saturday. Tickets are only \$7.00 for adults and \$3.50 for children,

Continued on Page 3

## More from the East...

a great price for chicken spaghetti, salad, garlic toast and dessert! Please come and join us for a fun time and worthy cause! This is a great way to enjoy the 4 Fs - fraternity, fellowship, friendship and fun in our Lodge.

To update you with the Lodge real estate situation, as we discussed both at the town hall meeting and at previous Stated meetings, although we have received several solicitations on the property, no party has presented an earnest money contract in an acceptable form to present to the Lodge. As announced on several occasions, in the event that such a contract is presented in the proper form for consideration by the Lodge and GLOT, with a requisite money deposit, after review by our attorneys to comport with GLOT laws, then such a contract will be presented to the Lodge for vote. As always, see you at Lodge!

**Fraternally, Tom Behrman, W.M.**

## Get Well Soon, Bro. Max!

As you all may know, our Chaplain, Bro. **Max Jack Bernstein**, is under the weather, is hospitalized and may be transferred shortly to a nursing home. Max, we send our warm wishes on a speedy recovery and return to your place at Holland. Max would like to hear from you and has indicated his desire to see our members as well. Please check with the Master, or Junior Warden, on his numbers and address.

Get well soon, Max!

## HONORS TO HOLLAND

Bro. James Stone, Imminent Commander of Ruthven Commandery, has advised Holland of Ruthven's intention to recognize and honor Holland Lodge No. 1 Member, Bro. **Thomas Jefferson Burnett**, Past Master in 1969, with the **Excalibur Award**, the Commandery's equivalent to the Grand Lodge's Golden Trowel Award.

Congratulations to Jeff, our Editor Emeritus of *The Alpha*.

The Award will be given out at Ruthven this month and please check their calendar for the exact date in order to attend and honor Jeff.

And congratulations to our newest Affiliated member:

Bro. **Larry A. Batchelor**, Houston, Texas

**Do you know of any Holland Lodge Members who should be mentioned here? If so, call the W.M. and let him know!**

## Lodge Activities/Calendar

### May, 2006 —

May 1	Monday - MM degree practice
May 3	Wednesday - Master Mason's Degree
May 8	Monday - <b>Dark</b>
May 10	Wednesday - <b>HL #1 May Stated Meeting (Past Masters' Night)</b>
May 14	Sunday - { <b>Mother's Day</b> }
May 15	Monday - Lawyers' MM degree practice
May 17	Wednesday - <b>RW Harrison Portrait Ceremony and Lawyers' MM Degree</b>
May 22	Monday - <b>HL #1 Community Builder Awards</b> ; MM degree practice
May 24	Wednesday - Master Mason's Degree
May 29	Monday - <b>Memorial Day - HOLIDAY</b> [Lodge Dark]
May 31	Wednesday - <b>Dark</b>

### June, 2006 —

June 5	Monday - EA & FC SOI, certificate work
June 7	Wednesday - EA & FC SOI, certificate work
June 12	Monday - <b>Dark</b>
June 14	Wednesday - <b>HL #1 June Stated Meeting</b>
June 18	Sunday - { <b>Father's Day</b> }
June 24	Saturday - { <b>St. John the Baptist Day</b> }

## Officers Of Holland Lodge No. 1

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Secretary	Phillip von Stephens	713- 723-2009	713-723-2009	Secretary@Hollandlodge.org
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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
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