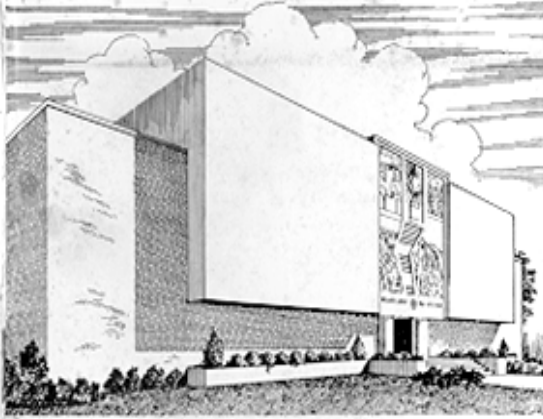


The Alpha

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

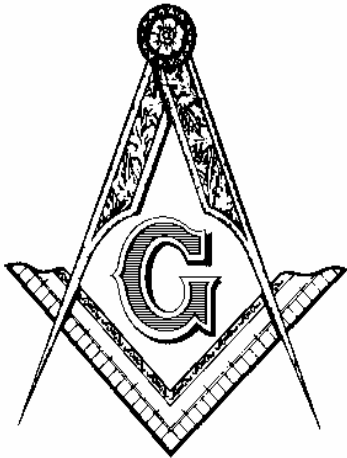


The Next Stated Meeting **May 14, 2008**

Dinner at 6:30 p.m.

Lodge opens at 7:30 p.m.

Please join us for a great dinner
And Past Master's Night
at our
May Stated Meeting



From the East

Brethren,

I would like to start by mentioning an excellent degree that was put on down in Galveston at Harmony Lodge No. 6. Kurt Kasper conferred his first Fellowcrafts Degree and Bob Welsh gave the lecture and I gave the charge. Brother Ron Adams was the Senior Deacon, Brad Reel and I were Junior and Senior Wardens, and Matt Murphy was the Master of Ceremonies. I am going to say that I didn't hear one mistake from Brother Kasper and I thought the delivery was excellent; he is truly becoming a credit to Holland in his mastery of the work.

As you may or may not be aware, Harmony Lodge meets in the Egyptian room at the Scottish Rite Temple down in Galveston. The last time there was an official visit by Holland Lodge to put on a degree it was Brother Reel who was getting his Fellowcrafts degree. He is the one primarily responsible for coordinating with Brother Clyde Wood of Harmony to make sure this got put together well. Both did an outstanding job. Additionally, we all got a tour of the building which we didn't do the last time we were there. It is an amazing example of Masonry and dates back to 1929. If you ever get the chance you should definitely check out a Scottish Rite Reunion down there as I'm sure with all the scenes they have it would be sure to be an amazing one. The next I believe is being held on July 26th.

As for other news of course we have nearly a dozen candidates in the pipeline and as I write this we are preparing for the EA degree of another candidate. With the degree down at Harmony we are hopefully kicking off another run of Fellowcrafts degrees which will soon be followed by another set of Masters. If everything goes right we might be able to raise almost 15 Master Masons this year.

On this note I would like to thank Brother Barry Podwin who has recently become quite an active member and asset to the Lodge. I know that on Saturdays he has been holding classes for Entered Apprentices and Fellowcrafts to speed them on their work.

On other happenings, we are having The Grand Sovereign Commander of the Southern Jurisdiction of the Scottish Rite Seale to speak at our Sam Houston Lecture. This is quite an honor for us and I know that we are starting to drum up a lot of excitement about this lecture. If you are in any way associated with the Scottish Rite it will be an excellent opportunity to see the man who is right now at the head of that organization.

On a sad note, as I'm sure that many of you already know, Brother and Past Master, Owen Popham recently passed from this mortal coil. He was Master of Holland in 1973. I know that 65 or more brethren attended his funeral for which Sadly, I was out-of-town and unable to attend. I know that he will be missed by many.

As always brothers, we welcome you to lodge and look forward to your visit. We will make sure, if you are interested, that you have a place in the degrees and if you are so inclined that you get the practice you need in order to perform the role to the level of expectations that Holland has always maintained. If you want to serve in an Entered Apprentice Degrees please contact Kurt Kasper, Fellowcrafts contact Wael Semaan, and for Masters Degrees contact Jerry Jones.

Please make an effort to join us at the May Stated Meeting where we will host the Past Master's Night and hear from and see many of our Past Masters.

Thank you all for your support and please let me know if there is anything I can do for you.

Fraternally Patrick Porter, W.M.

From the South...

In this edition we are going to go back into history and find out who was **King Solomon**. He is a figure described in Middle Eastern scriptures as a wise ruler of an empire centered on the United Kingdom of Israel. He was born in Jerusalem about 1000 BC and reined over Israel from 971 BC to 931 BC.

The Hebrew Bible accounts identify Solomon as the son of David. He is also called *Jedidiah* in the Tanakh (Old Testament), and is described as the third king of the United Monarchy, and the final king before the northern Kingdom of Israel and the southern Kingdom of Judah split; following the split his patrilineal descendants ruled over Judah alone. The Bible accredits Solomon as the builder of the First Temple in Jerusalem, and portrays him as great in wisdom, wealth, and power. Solomon is the subject of many other later references and legends. During Solomon's long reign of 40 years, the Hebrew monarchy, according to the Bible, gained its highest splendour. This period has been called the *Augustan Age* of the Jewish annals. In a single year, according to 1 Kings 10:14, Solomon collected tribute amounting to 666 talents of gold (39,960 pounds). Based on the archeological evidence, the kingdom of Israel at the time of Solomon was little more than a small city state, so some consider this to be an implausibly large amount of money. Likewise, the magnitude of Solomon's temple may be considered legendary given the lack of physical evidence of its existence, despite some archeological work in the area. It should be noted that extensive archeological excavation has never been conducted around the area known as the Temple Mount; what is thought to be the foundation of Solomon's Temple. Attempts to do so are often met with protest from adherents to the Muslim and Jewish faiths. Christianity has traditionally accepted the historical existence of Solomon, though some modern Christian scholars have also questioned at least his authorship of those biblical texts ascribed to him, if not his actual existence. Such disputes tend to divide Christians into traditionalist and modernist camps.

Of the two Genealogies of Jesus given in the Gospels, Matthew mentions Solomon, but Luke does not. Jesus mentions Solomon twice: once when teaching his followers about trust in God (Matthew 6:28-29, Luke 12:27), and again when speaking of the Queen of Sheba's visit to the court of David (Matthew 12:42, Luke 11:31). Saint Stephen, in his testimony before the Sanhedrin, mentions Solomon's construction of the Temple (Acts 7:47).

In the Eastern Orthodox Church, Solomon is commemorated as a saint, with the title of "Righteous Prophet and King". His feast day is celebrated on the Sunday of the Holy Forefathers (two Sundays before the Great Feast of the Nativity of the Lord).

Solomon also appears in the Qur'an. The Qur'an refers to Sulayman as the son of David (Arabic: Dawud), as a prophet and as a great ruler imparted by God with tremendous wisdom, favor, and special powers just like his father, David. The Quran states that Sulayman had under his rule not only people, but also hosts of Jinn. It also states that Sulayman was able to understand the language of the birds and ants, and to see some of the hidden glory in the world that was not accessible to common human beings. Ruling a large kingdom that extended south into Yemen, he was known throughout the lands for his wisdom and fair judgments.

This ends this month's article I hope to see everyone at lodge.

Fraternally, Wael Semaan, Junior Warden

From the Kitchen...

What's Going On!

June 4th, Scholarship Awards & Table Lodge - From time immemorial, Freemasons have enjoyed meeting about a "Festive Board" loaded with the fruits of their labor. From the idea of the feast, and the desire to promote a greater degree of fellowship and kinship in Masonry, was born the Table Lodge.

The Table Lodge has a most unusual pattern. Its meeting is conducted around the table, and the helpings of food and beverage are served in such a way they do not interfere with the other concerns of the Lodge.

The Table Lodge was traditionally a tiled Entered Apprentice Lodge, followed by the peculiar ritual used only in a Table Lodge, so all Entered Apprentices and Fellow Crafts can participate in the fellowship of the Lodge.

http://www.phoenixmasonry.org/table_lodge_history_ritual.htm

Reservations are required for the mealtime (Table Lodge) on this special evening. EA's, FC's, and MM's are all welcome to partake. Please inform our lodge Secretary ahead of time if you will attend this Table Lodge on June 4th. Scholarship awards will be given earlier the same evening in open lodge. Please reserve early to guarantee your seating.

You already hold a blue season ticket for 2008. Excellent degree work is steadily ongoing within your lodge. Savor a meal, and watch the Work. The calendar is online at <http://www.HollandLodge.Org>

Every member of Holland Lodge (including you!) is worthy. We continue recognizing birthdays before meals. Dine with us and receive your token cake and your token gift for YOUR birthday, and we will together sing for others.

Brother Adams, Brother Reilly, Brother Podwin, and myself remain honored serving as your Holland Lodge Stewards and we continue ongoing mealtime happy surprises. Join with us early and often to sample our meals and experience everything happening within Holland Lodge. We have impromptu Kitchen Klatches most Wednesday (and most Monday) evenings wherein all Free Masons are welcome to polish The Work, visit, and generally have a Masonically good time. Holland Lodge remains YOUR home!

Fraternally and Sincerely, Brother Meier

The Pillar of Strength

What became of this pillar that stood on the porch of the Temple?

The name of the left hand pillar that stood on the porch of King Solomon's Temple was Boaz. It is derived from the Hebrew and signifies "in strength." This pillar was broken into pieces and carried away to Babylon with the other treasures of the Temple, by Nebuchadnezzar.

Thank you Brother Phillip von Stephens for the contribution.

Lodge Activities/Calendar

May 14, 2008

Stated Meeting and Past Master's Night

May 18, 2008

Masonic Oak Picnic at Brazoria

May 24, 2008

11th Annual Sam Houston Lecture

June 4, 2008

Scholarship Awards & Table Lodge

June 11, 2008

Stated Meeting

Please be sure to check the website at

www.HollandLodge.org

for updates & announcements.

There are Degrees and Proficiency Exams taking place

Welcome to Our Newest Affiliated Member

**Ernest R. Smith and Robert Smith
both of 1069 Sunrise New York, N.Y.**

Announcing the 11th Sam Houston Lecture!

The Eleventh Sam Houston Lecture will be hosted at Holland Lodge on May 24, 2008.

This Lecture Series has brought Masonic Scholars to Holland Lodge for the past 10 years with several notable presentations.

This year we are proud to announce that our speaker will be The Sovereign Grand Commander of the Scottish Rite of the Mother Supreme Council of the Southern Jurisdiction of the United States, Illustrious Ronald Seale. He will be presenting his paper on "**The Conundrum Of Conflicting Vision**".

SGC Seale leads the Southern Jurisdiction of Scottish Rite (which is composed of 35 states including Texas). We are expecting a record attendance because of SGC Seale's presentation and invite the Brethren to send in their registrations early.

The presentation will be at 7:30PM on May 24, 2008. A catered banquet dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m.

The cost is \$40 per person or \$60 per couple.

You won't want to miss this event, please see the flier included in this Alpha to make your reservations.

AND More Great News

OutBack Steakhouse will be Catering this event.

We will miss our departed Brothers

Richard F. Harris Jr. died on 4-16-2005

Jack R. Rowson died on 1-30-2007

Otis A. Ueckert died on 3-27-2008

Owen E. Popham died on 3-28-2008

Bro. Brad Reel has organized monthly "snowball" visitations. Each month a group of Holland Lodge members are visiting another lodge. While visiting each month's lodge, we will recruit two members from that lodge to join us on upcoming months lodge visits. Our "snowball" will grow until June, 2008 when we will have our final visit at Holland Lodge! Each month, there will be a new sign up sheet. Members will only be committed for the month that they sign up to participate. Each month the number of Holland participants will decrease to accommodate the growing number of "snowballers". Join in the fun, contact Bro. Brad Reel at bradreel@gmail.com for information on the next visit!

Officers Of Holland Lodge No. 1

		<u>HOME</u>	<u>OFFICE</u>	<u>e-mail</u>
Worshipful Master	Patrick Porter	713-796-1131	713-294-3704	Worshipfulmaster@hollandlodge.org
Senior Warden	Jerry Jones	713-667-2817	713-201-0366	Seniorwarden@hollandlodge.org
Junior Warden	Wael Semaan	832-251-7051	713-935-8109	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	Steven Lattelle			Chaplain@hollandlodge.org
Senior Deacon	Kurtis Kasper	832-216-3519	713-348-3027	Seniordeacon@hollandlodge.org
Junior Deacon	Robert Welch	713-526-0029	713-941-7800	Juniordeacon@hollandlodge.org
Senior Steward	Michael Meier	713-729-6426	713-529-0912	SeniorSteward@hollandlodge.org
Junior Steward	Ronald Adams	713-681-7359	713-882-3823	JuniorSteward@hollandlodge.org
Marshal	Nicolas Evanoff			Marshal@hollandlodge.org
Mstr. Of Ceremonies	Nicholas Rocha		713-645-7200	Masterofceromonies@hollandlodge.org
Musician	Rodney Elliott	713-236-0359	713-236-0359	Musician@hollandlodge.org
Tiler	Budd Baumgardner	713-666-3625	713-666-3625	None
Immediate P M	Duncan Chapman	281-447-8200	832-212-3181	ImmediatePM@hollandlodge.org

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