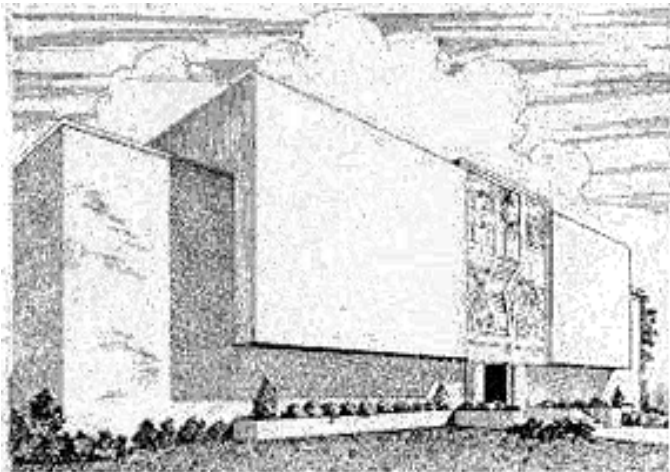


The Alpha

Holland Lodge No. 1 A.F. & A.M.
4911 Montrose Boulevard,
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(713) 529-0912
www.hollandlodge.org
October 2005
Volume 36 Number 4
Bill Sessums, Jr. P.M. – Editor



**Stated Meeting
October 12, 2005
Dinner at 6:30 P.M.
Lodge opens at 7:30 P.M.**

Remember this Month:
**The 4th Annual Holland Lodge #1
Brisket Barbecue Sale**
to benefit our College Scholarship Program
Saturday, October 29, 2005

And also this Month:
The Third Monday Program
Honoring our Holland Lodge Veterans
Monday, October 17, 2005
**Bros. Andy Deas and Marvin Peterson,
Co-Chairmen**

And also this Month:
Town Hall Program at Grand Lodge of Texas
Waco, Texas
Saturday, October 29, 2005



Tom Behrman, Worshipful Master

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

Brethren, this article is being written in the aftermath of Hurricane Rita having just past through Houston. Although the Lodge lost power for a short period, the Lodge and most all of us dodged a bullet this past weekend. After calling many of the Brethren, it appears that most of us made it through without the anticipated damage we all feared. We were very lucky and should all be grateful to the Great Architect of the Universe for sparing us from the wrath of the storm. Once again, our neighbors and Brethren in Louisiana bore a disproportionate amount of the damage and anguish, not to mention our East Texas Brethren. As we discussed at the September Stated meeting, I know we are all working on how best we can respond to the needs of our neighboring Brethren.

Only a couple of weeks ago we shared good fellowship and great, fresh Gulf shrimp with our Brethren from Harmony Lodge #6 and Tucker Lodge #297 from Galveston, Texas. Little did we know that less than a week later we would all be facing a potential direct assault on Galveston from Rita. I know our Galveston Brethren, like us, are all breathing a sigh of relief after Rita. Hopefully, next year we can enjoy the company of our brother Galveston Lodges back down in Galveston for another **Galveston-Houston Shrimp Boil**. I want to thank the crew that worked so hard in putting the shrimp boil together. Our Sr. Steward, Mike Orr, oversaw PM Earl Thompson do his thing with the shrimp, corn and potatoes under the cover and shade of the parking garage. They were ably assisted by Bros. Jr. Steward Charlie Driezen, Sr. Warden Duncan Chapman, Sr. Deacon Gene Wright, Marshal Collin Keel, Greg Wood, Bob Welch and last, but certainly not least, Luther B. "The Skipper" Van Cleve. To everybody who helped, thank you. I now know why I put on so much weight on the year Earl was in the kitchen. He certainly knows how to cook. Watch out for those spices and secret ingredients! I am glad we could reciprocate in the hospitality extended to us by Galveston two years ago. I hope our respective Lodges will continue with this tradition and it will grow over the years. We had between 60-70 folks in attendance, this time primarily Holland members and families. It was great to see the spouses and children in attendance, from both Houston and Galveston. I want to thank Bro. Collin Keel for giving a personal guided tour of the Houston Holocaust Museum to our Galveston guests and Holland Lodge members and their families. The shrimp boil was a wonderful opportunity to take in our Museum District, which surrounds Holland and is one of our greatest assets as a Lodge.

I want to remind you of some of the upcoming events at Lodge. One of our most important traditions is just around the corner. Coming up on **Saturday, October 29, 2005**, beginning at 9:30 a.m., and running until 3:30 p.m., is our **4th Annual Holland Lodge #1 Brisket – Barbecue Sale**, to benefit the Holland Lodge #1 College Scholarship Program. Our announcement is included in this edition of the *Alpha*. All the net proceeds from the sale of briskets and lunches go toward our college scholarship program started 4 years ago. Through our fundraising efforts, we have been able to award 3 scholarships to date, each time in a higher amount than the previous year. I announced last year that this year we would attempt to raise enough money to award 2 scholarships to deserving college bound students next Spring. With the Legislature and Grand Lodge giving the OK for raffles, we hope to be able to organize a raffle next Spring to enhance our fundraising efforts. I only hope we have enough time to have the raffle this year instead of having to wait another year in order to qualify for a second fundraising event to enhance the scholarship program. Hopefully, we can get it done this year, but in any event we will perform the groundwork essential to have a raffle at least by the next year.

I wanted to thank our Sr. Steward, Bro. Mike Orr, for his heartfelt presentation at last month's Stated meeting. His title, "**A Less Than Perfect Body**," not only related the story of his daughter, but inspired us all in how he used Masonry to assist him in dealing with the challenges to his daughter and his family. Thank you, Mike. Continued on page 2

“From the South” Report on the Warden’s retreat

Well, during September, three members of Holland Lodge had the opportunity to attend the Warden’s retreat held at the Westchase Hilton. It was a good weekend for all the brothers who attended. Perhaps the most memorable part of the weekend was when on Sunday I was receiving my certificate of completion from the Most Worshipful Grand Master. As I was shaking his hand, he looked at me and in the stern voice that someone with that kind of authority can muster said...

“Don’t screw it up. That’s my lodge. Don’t screw it up.”

Now ordinarily, an admonition like that might have offended me. Especially since moments before I received the exact same message as the Most Worshipful was shaking hands before the ceremony. Most people that know me well realize that I rarely screw up, or at least rarely screw up so royally that I am unable to rectify my mistakes. I also have been forced to have a bit of a chip on my shoulder about such things. I am sure that there are many people out there that have qualms about my abilities, and these are issues I face at work every day as well. My youth has forced upon me a degree of accountability that is quite unparalleled amongst those in my peer group. Needless to say, I still have a job, and I would hope, in most things continue to live up to expectations at least as far as I know them.

So upon reflection moments later, I came to the conclusion as to why I wasn’t offended by this message. This message like so many others was delivered from the heart. When I described the message as stern, it was stern in its sincerity and the deliverer wanted to drive home a message without being misunderstood. It is the same kind of message that a man might deliver to the fellow that is taking out his daughter on a date. It is stern, but filled with love for the thing he is talking about. It’s a truly noble and beautiful sentiment.

In addition to that one moment, the rest of the weekend was a positive experience. I think that the group exercises went well and that my “lodge” did an excellent job of constructing its goals, and plans for the year. The presentations went well and I’m pretty sure that an off-chance mention of a poker tournament caused quite the memorable exchange with the RWDGM for which I was ribbed during the rest of the weekend.

At any rate, by my estimation, Holland Lodge conducted itself well and with distinction during that weekend. After the graduation ceremony was over; Duncan, Eugene and I were tagging up in the lobby. At one point I turned to Duncan and asked if he had gotten the same message from the Grand Master that I had. He looked at me kind of funny and replied “Yes”. Knowing that I wasn’t the only one, and seeing the look on Duncan’s face put quite the smile on my face.

Fraternally, Patrick Porter, J.W.

From the East continued...

I am glad this month that Bros. Andy Deas and Marvin Peterson, co-Chairmen of the 3rd Monday Program Committee, will be bringing back the 3rd **Monday Program** to Holland Lodge on **Monday, October 17, 2005**. Andy and Marvin will put on the program in the dining room during and following dinner and have chosen to honor our Holland Lodge #1 veterans that night. They have invited several WW II veterans of Holland to speak that night and we will honor all those members of Holland Lodge #1 who are veterans. Please do not miss this program. You will be moved and inspired by the stories of our veterans.

I want to remind you all of the **Town Hall Meeting** scheduled in Waco at Grand Lodge on **Saturday, October 22, 2005**. I am sure that there will be some sort of caravan headed out from Holland on that Saturday to travel to Waco for the meeting. The town hall meeting is to be held in the lower auditorium of the Grand Lodge building in Waco starting at 10:00 a.m. The announced subject matter of this new meeting format includes (1) the catechism/proficiency, should it be modified; (2) one day classes in the work and (3) the qualifications to be a Mason, the internal and not the external. These are certainly areas of interest and importance to all Masons in Texas. I hope you will take the opportunity to travel with us to Waco and support our Grand Master, M.:W.:Elmer Murphey II, a member of Holland Lodge #1.

Please do not forget the upcoming **Forum** at Holland Lodge #1, on Saturday, November 5, 2005, to be conducted by our own R.:W.: Bill Sessums, Sr., of the Committee on Work, Grand Lodge of Texas. We will be serving both breakfast and lunch on that day. The Forum will start in the morning and certificate exams will start after lunch. The Forum should be very instructional for us all. I encourage you to attend to find out how to brush up on your proficiency in the work. And have great fun with your fellow Brethren.

As announced at the September Stated meeting, do not forget to get your reservation in for the Annual Communication of Grand Lodge of Texas, in Waco, starting on Thursday, December 1, 2005, and running through Saturday, December 3, 2005. The cost is \$160.00, which includes a room for 2 days, the Thursday night dinner with the Lodge Brethren and breakfast. This is a great chance to get to know your fellow Lodge members better, to learn what is going on in Grand Lodge, to enjoy the sights in Waco and partake in the Craft. Like in previous years, we should have a caravan going up.

And for those curious, fun loving and adventurous, I wanted to report that the Rice vs. Navy football game, originally scheduled for Saturday, September 24, has been moved to Saturday, October 22, 2005, beginning at 7:00 p.m., which will allow for the fireworks you missed last weekend. I will let you know at Lodge about the ticket deal, if you are interested.

I look forward to seeing you at Holland soon!

Fraternally, Tom Behrman, W.M.

**The Third Monday Program
Returns on October 17, 2005!**

The Third Monday program will honor World War II veterans Max Bernstein, Charles Browder Jr., Clarence Brown, Jeff Burnett, Dr. Hunter Harang, Tom Johnson, Jack McCaine and Owen Popham Jr. If we missed any World War II veterans please accept this as an invitation to attend. Dinner will be served at 6:00 p.m., friends and family welcome.

Hope to see you there.

From the Secretary

Reservations to Grand Lodge are on a first come, first serve basis. Cost is \$160 or \$284 if your spouse will be with you.

Born 4-6-1892, Author, Lecturer, World Traveler, Radio and T.V. Commentator who wrote With Lawrence in Arabia, Count Luckner, the Dea Devil, Good Evening Everybody & So Long Until Tomorrow. Yes, we who lived between the two World Wars know him well as Brother Lowell Jackson Thomas of St. John's Lodge, Boston Mass.

Until next month stay safe, healthy and happy.

Phillip von Stephens, Secretary

The Life Cycle

We will miss our departed Brothers...

Robert Lee Weniger, Jr.

**PLANNED GIVING
TO HOLLAND LODGE NO. 1**

Brethren, this is a reminder that gifts may be made in order to provide income and funds for the programs of Holland Lodge #1.

Your contributions and gifts can go to secure the future of our Lodge. At present, various gift methods include outright bequests, appreciated stock, life insurance, a residuary bequest and other forms of planned giving. If you would like to remember Holland Lodge #1 in your gift and estate planning, please contact the Worshipful Master.

A legacy is a great thing to leave behind!

Tom Behrman, W. : M. :

Committee Volunteers Needed:

The Telephone Committee is in need of 3-4 good men to fill in as volunteers. This committee is important in notifying our Brethren of important announcements not otherwise on the Calendar of the Lodge, including funerals and other important items. If you would like to donate a little time to this important Lodge committee, please contact the Worshipful Master, or the Committee Chairman, Bro. Owen Popham, PM, at 713-723-6680.

Thanks! Tom Behrman, W. : M. :

Lodge Activities/Calendar

October, 2005

October 3	Monday -	Degree practice, for EA degree; EA & FC SOI
October 5	Wednesday -	EA Exam and/or EA Degree; EA & FC SOI
October 10	Monday -	Dark - Columbus Day - HOLIDAY
October 12	Wednesday -	HL #1 October Stated Meeting
October 17	Monday -	3rd Monday Program – Honoring Holland Lodge #1 Veterans
October 19	Wednesday -	EA or FC Degree
October 22	Saturday -	Town Hall Meeting, Grand Lodge of Texas; Waco, Texas
October 24	Monday -	Degree practice, for EA or FC degree; EA & FC SOI
October 26	Wednesday -	Dark
October 29	Saturday -	4th Annual Holland Lodge #1 Brisket – Barbecue Sale, to benefit the HL #1 College Scholarship Program, @ HL #1
October 31	Monday -	Dark - Halloween – HOLIDAY

November, 2005

November 2	Wednesday -	EA or FC Degree; EA & FC SOI
November 5	Saturday -	Forum and Exam @ Holland Lodge #1, Committee on Work
November 7	Monday -	Dark
November 9	Wednesday -	HL #1 November Stated Meeting
November 24	Thursday -	Dark - Thanksgiving – HOLIDAY

Officers Of Holland Lodge No. 1

		<u>HOME</u>	<u>OFFICE</u>	<u>e-mail</u>
Worshipful Master	Tom Behrman	713- 721-6003	713-503-1472	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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