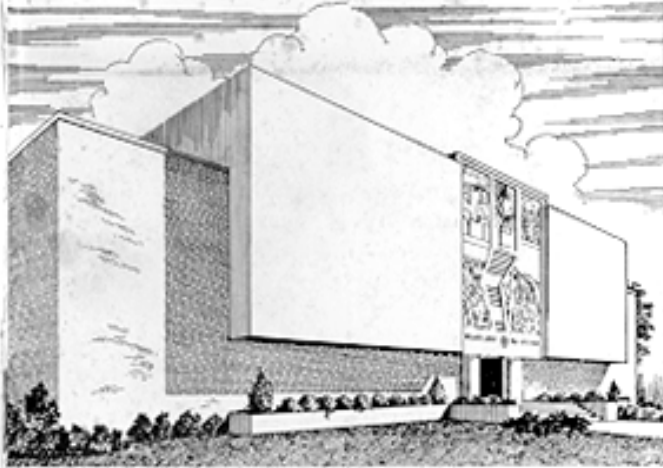


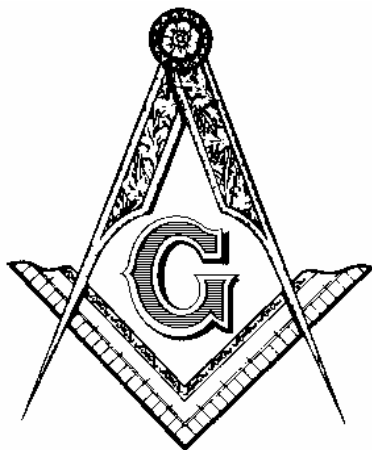
The Alpha

Holland Lodge No. 1 A.F. & A.M.
4911 Montrose Boulevard,
Houston TX 77006
(713) 529-0912
www.hollandlodge.org
October 2006
Volume 37 Number 4
Bill Sessums, Jr. P.M. – Editor



**Stated Meeting:
October 11, 2006
Dinner at 6:30 p.m.
Lodge opens at 7:30 p.m.**

Please join us as the
business of Your Lodge is conducted!



From the East...

Freemasonry is the belief in the Brotherhood of Man and the Fatherhood of God.

The three principal tenets of Masonry; Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth are taught to us very early in our initiation. It is our duty to preserve this tradition for future generations, It is our duty to provide assistance not only to our lodge but to any Brother or person that may need it.

A lodge cannot function on money alone, it must have Members that are knowledgeable about the day to day operation of the lodge, Members that know the ritual and can teach the new candidates, Members that care about the lodge and its principles. Members that are present and available and willing to give what it takes to keep the lodge alive and vibrant.

Most of the general public has at least heard about the Masons. Recently there has been several movies about Freemasonry, some of which show us in a good light and some that are not so good therefore it is necessary that we should strive to demonstrate the principals of Masonry. We freely chose to join the Masonic Fraternity. The question is did we chose to be Masons

Duncan Chapman, W.M.

Max Bernstein

The most consummate Mason I ever knew. He was a Master Mason, a Past Mater, A Shriner, A Pilot, A Veteran, A Patriot, A Father and A Grandfather. He was generous to a fault, he would go out of his way to help anyone that needed his assistance, He believed relieving the distress was his duty.

Max never stopped learning or teaching, he thought teaching was a part of his responsibility. He taught at home in lodge or anywhere anyone would meet him, Max taught not only the words but by example. He had faith, hope and a loving kindness which he gave to us all, he was a beacon and a light, he truly lived a Masonic life.

Max was a very laid back man who never looked for praise but was quick to praise others, his philosophy was that Masonry was a discipline that he enjoyed, I heard him say on more that one occasion that the esoteric work kept his mind sharp.

He loved the Shrine and was never without his shrine pin, He was a big help to the Shriner's Hospital. When he could no longer drive they would send a driver to pick him up.

Our dearly beloved Max Jack Bernstein will be missed by all that knew him.

Duncan Chapman, W.M.

From the South...

There are several things I would like to discuss in this month's article. The first of which being the last scholarly work by Brother Albert Pike, (1808-1891), Esoterika, to which I made a brief reference in last month's article printed in *The Alpha*. In this book he presents his observations on Blue Lodge Symbolism which are very different from what I have been able to learn from the rituals to which I have been exposed in the degree work done in the lodge. On the 13th of September, 2006, in a lecture during our stated meeting, Brother Charles McKay asked the question "are the new masons learning about Masonry from the rituals". It seems that the degrees are performed, and there it ends. The candidate is relieved that it is over, and he advances to the next level. The brothers working in the degree are mainly concerned as to whether they have made any mistakes, and wonder if anyone noticed if they did. Shortly after that everyone goes home, secure in the knowledge that they have done good. Did the candidate learn anything about Masonry from the ritual in which he participated? Did anyone bother to explain any of the symbolism found in the degree at any time after the degree was conferred? Did the candidate ask? I have often wondered about the phrase "But this is to teach you, that you should not tamper with un-tempered mortar", and its meaning. I have asked many times and received as many different answers. The most common being "well you shouldn't mess around with stuff you don't understand!" Brother Albert G. Mackey explains that phrase as "mortar which has not been properly mixed for use, and thus became a symbol of passions and appetites not duly restrained. Hence the Speculative Apprentice was made to wear his apron in that peculiar manner to teach him that he should not allow his soul to be defiled by the un-tempered mortar of unruly passions".(1) This explication actually tells me nothing. I have never heard it before, and doubt that I will ever hear it or read it again, except in Mackey's Encyclopedia of Freemasonry.

The truth of the matter is, and I must again quote Brother Pike who has stated "Of some things that I saw and heard could not be explained to me at all. And no one could resolve my doubts and difficulties. Of course, I could learn nothing in the Lodge. No one ever learns anything there, in regard to the meaning of the symbols of the degrees, after he has received the degrees. If one desires to learn more, which most Masons do not, he must seek to find it in books printed to be sold to anyone, Mason and profane alike, who may wish to purchase, and these I bought and eagerly read, finding here and there among the rubbish of useless writing, a clue, now and then, which led me toward the truth".(2)

As you can see, Brethren, I am about to run out of space. So, I will continue, next month, the esoteric thoughts of Brother Pike, and his esoteric endeavor, Esoterika.

(1) Mackey, Charles, Revised Encyclopedia of Freemasonry, The Masonic History Co. 1946. Page 1070

(2) Pike, Albert, Esoterika, The Scottish Rite Research Society, 2005, Page 113
15 September 2006

Fraternally, Jerry Jones, J.W., Holland Lodge Number One

From the Secretary, Phillip von Stephen email: pvs@insurer.com

The Annual Grand Lodge Meeting in Waco will start this year on November 30th and conclude on December 2nd. Reservations are now due for those who intend to attend Grand Lodge. Please forward your payment to the Secretary in the amount of \$160. This \$160 will cover two nights for you at the Hilton Hotel, a Steak dinner at Heitmiller restaurant and two full breakfasts at the Hilton. If you would like to have your spouse attend with you her cost is \$134. We will pre-register for Grand Lodge for an additional modest fee of \$4 and if you wish to attend the 30th Masonic District Luncheon it will cost you \$12.

Please just help this be clear by including a short note to let your Secretary know what you are paying for.

A Bee Hive

A Masonic Lodge should resemble a beehive in which all the members work together with ardor for the common good. Masonry is not meant for cold souls and narrow minds that do not comprehend its lofty mission. Here the anathema against lukewarm souls applies. To comfort misfortune, to popularize knowledge, to teach whatever is true and pure in religion and philosophy, to accustom men to respect order and the proprieties of life, to point out the way to genuine happiness, to prepare for that fortunate period when all the factions of the human-family united by the bonds of toleration and fraternity, shall be but one household; these are the labors that may well excite zeal and enthusiasm.

—John Thomas,
Brotherhood, July 1915

We will miss our departed Brothers...

Farrell Gustave Huber, Jr. Died September 1, 2006

Max Bernstein, Died September 16, 2006

We welcome our newly Affiliated Members

**James L Anderson Jr.
Lloyd De La Rosa, Jr.
James L. Patterson**

Time for a Cleaning!

At the September Stated meeting it was voted on and approved to clean a part of our Building! The members present agreed to have the Lodge cover the cost of cleaning the FRONT of the building but agreed that the money to clean the sides and back of the building must come from donated funds.

Several Brothers stepped up and made donations totaling \$600 to help offset the cost of this project! If you would like to make a contribution to help with this worthy project please send your check to the Lodge Secretary with a note or memo that you wish for your contribution to help fund a FULL CLEANING of our building!

The Test

Contributed by Phillip von Stephens, P.M.

A story told of a Mason who always wore his Masonic ring and lapel pin when in public was riding a bus from his home to the downtown area. On one such trip and after he sat down, he discovered the driver and accidentally given him a quarter to much change. As he considered what to do, he thought to himself, "you'd better give the quarter back. It would be wrong to keep it." Then he thought, "oh, forget it, it's only a quarter; who would worry about this little amount." Anyway, the transit company gets too much fare; they will never miss it. Accept it as a 'gift from God' and keep quiet.

When the bus stopped he paused momentarily at the door, then he handed the quarter to the driver and said, "Here, you gave me too much change." The driver with a smile replied, "I noticed your Masonic ring and lapel pin. I have been thinking lately about asking a Mason how to join. I just wanted to see for myself what you would do if I gave you too much change. You have passed my test. Can you tell me how to become a Mason?"

Our actions are the only Masonic creed some will ever see. This is a great example of how people watch us as Masons and may put us to the test even without us realizing it! Remember, whether it is a lapel pin, a ring, or an emblem on the car, you carry the name of our great fraternity on your shoulders whenever you call yourself a Mason. You never can tell who might be watching!

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Lodge Activities/Calendar

October, 2006

October 11 Wednesday - **October Stated Meeting**

November, 2006

November 9 Wednesday - **November Stated Meeting**

December, 2006

December 13 Wednesday - **December Stated Meeting**

**Please check the website at
www.HollandLodge.org for updates
and meeting announcements.**

Officers Of Holland Lodge No. 1

		<u>HOME</u>	<u>OFFICE</u>	<u>e-mail</u>
Worshipful Master	Duncan Chapman	281- 447-8200	832- 212-3181	dcc624@yahoo.com
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Junior Warden	Jerry Jones	713-667-2817	713-201-0366	JBX@Texas.net
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
Chaplain	Robert Welch	713-526-0029	713-941-7800	texaswelch@hotmail.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
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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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