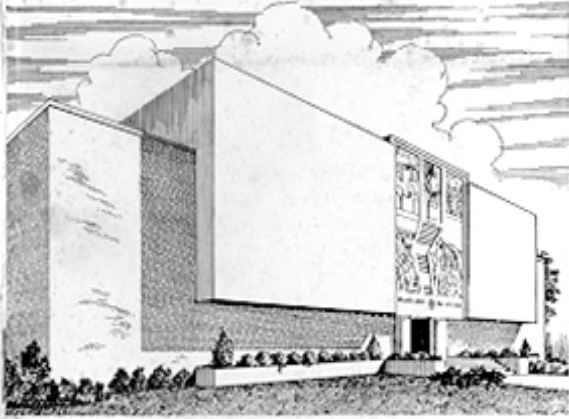


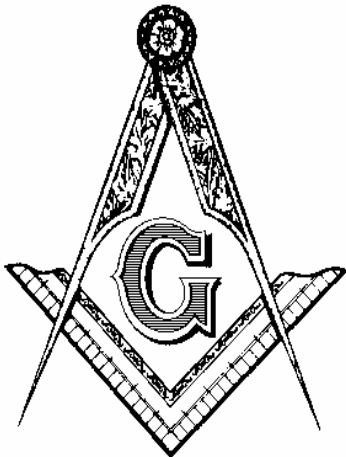
The Alpha

Holland Lodge No. 1 A.F. & A.M.
4911 Montrose Boulevard,
Houston TX 77006
(713) 529-0912
www.hollandlodge.org
October 2007
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Bill Sessums, Jr. P.M. – Editor



The Next Stated Meeting:
October 10, 2007
Dinner at 6:30 p.m.
Lodge opens at 7:30 p.m.

**Please join us for a great dinner and
then the Stated Meeting where the
business of your Lodge
will be conducted.**



Well, another month has passed and while Houston maybe slightly wetter for it. On the bright side it will much harder for the whole place to spontaneously combust.

I think that we had a rather productive stated meeting in September. One of the main things accomplished was that Holland Lodge became the temporary host lodge for the Houston Chapter of the International Order of DeMolay.

While some people might remember that in 1990 the DeMolay were asked to leave due to some behavior un-befitting an associated Masonic body, these are not the same group of individuals. These individuals have been at the Scottish Rite building since the 1990's. If it wasn't for the changing landscape of Masonic real-estate in Houston they would still be there. In fact the DeMolay chapter will still be sponsored by the Scottish Rite, but Holland will just be playing host.

The DeMolay will be meeting on Wednesday nights, the same nights that we are down at the lodge and as a result can benefit from additional supervision, interaction with our own membership and perhaps the occasional leftover piece of cake.

Membership of our lodge will benefit for similar reasons. We hopefully will be able to guide and provide some mentorship for these young men. Hopefully, our own exposure to the youth of today will reinforce some of the reasons that we got into Masonry, and maybe we will be able to provide enough good experiences that the right set of young men decide that they will want to join Holland Lodge. Masonry is built upon a set of mutually shared set of good experiences. Even before we started going through the degrees we must have had some kind of experience which prompted us to seek out that petition.

As for degree work, as of the stated meeting and the time of this article, I knew of at least 3 Entered Apprentices that will be receiving their F C degrees in September. We also voted on two men to put on their Entered Apprentice degrees. We have plenty of work to do, and we always benefit from having able bodied/minded individuals around the lodge to help, aid and assist in putting on these degrees and instructing candidates.

To this end the Senior Deacon has constructed a worksheet that he would like every member to fill out which indicates what roles in degrees you are able to perform and what instruction you are able to provide. Getting this information would be great to have so that we can continue to put on excellent degrees for our candidates.

On a particular note, if you get the chance, please congratulate Bob Welch on another finely delivered EA lecture. It's my understanding that under the tutelage of Bro. Popham he is steadily making his way through the lectures and will be ready to give the Fellowcraft lecture in short order.

I am happy to see a number of young men entering the lodge and I am also very happy with the level of fellowship that seems to be permeating the atmosphere. During the last stated meeting we 3 visiting brothers cooked dinner. I don't know a greater recommendation for our lodge's fraternal atmosphere than that. Please come down and contribute your own time, experience, and friendship to these endeavors. If you think you aren't missed, you are wrong.

Fraternally Patrick Porter, W.M.

From the South...

I would like to congratulate all the brethren on the job well done of hosting the Houston chapter of the Demolays. These boys are our future, the future of freemasonry. We will take upon ourselves the obligation of educating these youngsters so they will grow-up becoming good men. I would urge every brother to take a minute of time in advising these boys so one day they will lead our Lodges through out Texas.

I will now give a quick feedback about Jacques DeMolay, whom after him the order was named. He was born in Vitrey, Department of Haute Saone, France in the year 1244. At the age of 21, DeMolay joined the Order of Knights Templar.

The Knights Templar was an organization sanctioned by the Roman Catholic Church in 1128 to guard the road between Jerusalem and Acre, and they participated in the Crusades and earned a name for valor and heroism.

In 1298, Jacques DeMolay was named Grand Master of the Knights Templar, a position of power and prestige. As Grand Master however, Jacques DeMolay was also in a difficult position. The Crusades were not achieving their goals. The non-Christian Saracens defeated the Crusaders in battle and captured many vital cities and posts. The Knights Templar and the Hospitalers (another Order of Knights) were the only groups remaining to confront the Saracens.

In 1305, Philip the Fair, King of France, set about to obtain control of the Knights Templars. They had been accountable only to the Church. To prevent a rise in the power of the Church, and to increase his own wealth, Philip set out to take over the Knights.

In 1307, Jacques DeMolay, along with hundreds of others, was seized and thrown into dungeons. For seven years, DeMolay and the Knights suffered torture and inhuman conditions. While the Knights did not end, Philip managed to force Pope Clement to condemn the Templars.

During years of torture, Jacques DeMolay continued to be loyal to his friends and Knights. He refused to disclose the location of the funds of the Order and he refused to betray his comrades. On March 18, 1314, DeMolay was tried by a special court. As evidence, the court depended on a forged confession, allegedly signed by DeMolay.

Jacques DeMolay disavowed the forged confession. Under the laws of the time, the disavowal of a confession was punishable by death.

King Philip ordered him to be burned at the stake that day, and thus the story of Jacques DeMolay became a testimonial to loyalty and friendship.

This was a quick history about Jacques DeMolay, the father of the order. And once more let us join each other in promoting loyalty and friendship to the youth by starting in our own lodge wit this new group of young men.

Fraternally, Wael Semaan, Junior Warden

In 1801 America sent it's infant Navy to Africa to make war on the pirates of the Barbary coast. The officer in charge was one Commandore William Eaton who was raised in North Star Lodge, Manchester Vermont 1792. The battles off the coast of Africa were long and hard. Brother Eaton sent home this message.

SEND CASH AND A FEW MARINES!

The Marine Corps was born in that war. The majority of the heroes and leaders in that war were Marines/Masons.

Source copied from Mackey's; Submitted by Duncan Charles Chapman, P.M.

Don't miss out on Two upcoming opportunities to support our Community!

Holland Lodge will have it's first **Charity Motorcycle Ride on October 6, 2007.**

You can contact Brother Abe Lattelle at alattelle@wildwell.com or by phone at 713-376-0900.

Time will be short to sign up for this by the time you get this Alpha so get a hold of Brother Lattelle as soon as you can.

It is also time for Our **Sixth Annual Scholarship BBQ Brisket and Lunch** to be held on **October 27, 2007!**

You once again have an opportunity to come down to the Lodge and enjoy a great BBQ Lunch and/or you can order your own custom cooked BBQ Brisket! This event has turned into something special at Holland Lodge with involvement from the Eastern Star, Chapter, Council, Commandary and other Masonic Bodies! Come on out and enjoy seeing friends and Brothers!

A flier regarding both of these events is enclosed. Please don't delay, get signed up or place your orders Today!

Proceeds from both the Motorcycle Ride and the BBQ Brisket Sale and Lunch will provide your Lodge with the opportunity to support deserving students with college scholarships! Holland Lodge takes Charity work very seriously and is trying to continue what is quickly becoming a tradition of honoring deserving students with much needed financial support while they are pursuing their dreams of a college degree.

Even if you don't ride a motor cycle or you can't make it to Lodge or you just don't feel you need a scrumptious BBQ Brisket, please consider sending a donation of any amount to the Secretary at 4911 Montrose Blvd, Houston TX 77006, be sure to include a note that your donation is to support the Scholarship Fundraisers.

Together we can make a lasting difference in people's lives and continue to build our Masonic future!

From the Secretary

Recommendations for stolen wallet or purse by Owen Popham.

Place contents of your wallet on a photocopy machine. You will know what you had in your wallet & all of the account numbers & phone numbers to call & cancel. Keep photocopy in a safe place. Same goes for your passport. You want a horror story, just let thieves steal your VIP papers without a plan of action to cancel them. You will be surprised how fast THEY can use your good credit to purchase expensive monthly cell phone packages, apply for a VISA credit card, have A credit line approved to buy computers, even receive a PIN number from DMV to change your driving record information online, & more. Critical information on how to limit the damage to your good credit in next months ALPHA. Don't be caught in your white zone. ?? Don't know what a white zone is, stay tuned in, it will be in the ALPHA.

Lodge Activities/Calendar

October 3, 2007

Two Entered Apprentice Degrees

October 10, 2007

Stated Meeting

October 17, 2007

Two Fellow Craft Degrees

October 27, 2007

Brisket Sale Fund Raiser

November 14, 2007

Stated Meeting

Please be sure to check the website at
www.HollandLodge.org
for updates & announcements.

Welcome to Our Newest Affiliated Member

Michael Enmon Affiliated September 2007

We will miss our departed Brother

William Reichek

Raised September 6, 1945 Died August 28, 2007

David A Topek

Raised August 23, 1935 Died September 9, 2007

From the Kitchen

25+ year members will be specially recognized by the kitchen before Stated Meeting on October 10th. All 25+ year members are invited to dine with us at 6:30pm and partake of this treat for you. We had a good time last month recognizing 40+ year members. As you 50+ and you 40+ yr members are also 25+, please attend again. All Freemasons and guests are invited to join this celebration at 6:30pm mealtime.

Masonic Service Awards were presented on September 26th. Let's continue supporting our more experienced members and thanking them for the ongoing guidance they provide to us.

We continue recognizing birthdays before meals each Wednesday. Before the Masonic Service Award presentation included singing "Happy Birthday" to Brother Mark Love (our DDGM of District 30A) and Brother T.J. Burnett, Jr. Did you sing along? Join us to receive a cake and a token gift for your birthday and let's continue singing to others in honoring theirs.

Brother Adams and I remain honored serving as your Stewards for 2007-2008 and will continue ongoing mealtime surprises. Join with us early and often to experience what's happening and to sample our meals. We hold an impromptu Kitchen Klatch every Wednesday evening wherein all Freemasons are welcome to polish the Work, visit, and generally have a "Masonically" good time.

**We look forward to shaking your hands and
filling your plates.**

F & S,
Brother Meier

Bro. Brad Reel's Aunt will be in town during the month of October and will be taking custom orders for embroidery work. She has made several items for members of Holland Lodge in the past: Masonic hand towels, shirts, etc. If there is anything that you would like custom embroidered, please contact Bro. Brad Reel at bradreel@gmail.com.

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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