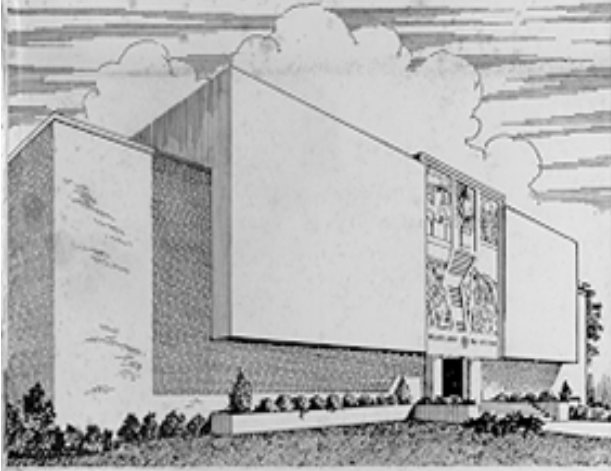


The Alpha

Holland Lodge No. 1 A.F. & A.M.
4911 Montrose Boulevard,
Houston TX 77006
(713) 529-0912
www.hollandlodge.org
September 2004
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Bill Sessums, Jr. P.M. – Editor



STATED MEETING

September 8, 2004

Dinner at 6:30 P.M.

Lodge opens at 7:30 P.M.

Program will feature:

T.J. Ramey

of the Masonic Education

Service Committee will talk on

“Change in the future of Masonry”

Be sure to visit

www.HollandLodge.org

**For the Latest Pictures, Masonic
News, Masonic Links and
the Most Up to date schedule as
well as the e-Alpha!**

**Do we have your email address?
Be sure you are getting the latest
news from your lodge, email your
address to**

SeniorDeacon@HollandLodge.org

From the East...

Brethren, our open meeting prior to August Stated was one of the most touching moments in my memory in Holland Lodge. Kandace Perry, our scholarship recipient spoke to the Lodge and thanked the Lodge all for what “WE” had done for her. I guarantee it tugged at the heart-strings of the Craft Assembled and gave each of us faith in the next generation. Kandace has volunteered to be our Avian Consultant for the rest of her career which includes Poultry Science and Veterinary School with an Avian Specialty. I am sure all Brothers in attendance will agree with me that she will make it; and “WE” helped.

Our first raised Master Mason, of the 169th Holland year, was John James Evans who got an excellent degree. Four newly endowed members received their “Endowed Member Cards” our Marshall Bob Welch, one of our Scottish Brothers Alistair Thomson, long time steward’s assistant Greg Wood and audit committee member Brad Reel. Congratulate these fine gentlemen the next time you see them.

Three more Master Degrees are being scheduled very soon. Is it time for “YOU” to get involved in a Degree – Call a Degree Master and join in! There are places for you to do as much or a little as you wish. We had some voices from the past last month and I wish to thank Brothers Keller and Faria for returning to the team – They were there when I was raised.

The scholarship was given to Kandace and the time to raise more funds for next year is now. Our Senior Warden, Tom Behrman, is chairman of fundraising and has announced the 3rd Annual Brisket Sale on Saturday, October 23, at Holland No. 1. Whole Briskets along with Plate Lunches will be available. Come out, have lunch and check out the Eastern Star crafts and other activities. Presale of brisket starts now, so buy some for your friends and family – Brother S.W. will have the details.

Also, now is the time to sign up for Grand Lodge, first weekend in December, send your check for \$ 154.00 made payable to Holland Lodge to the Secretary to secure your room and meals.

Hope to see “YOU” at September Stated – Have a Safe and Happy Labor Day Weekend .

Fraternally, Earl Thompson

“From the South”...

WARDENS RETREAT 2004, MISSING THE BOAT!

Sometimes you run across a program that is well worth the time, money and effort you have to give in order to be a participant. Most of the time, you leave feeling that you may or may not have gotten your money's worth.

This past weekend, I took the time to participate in the Grand Lodge Leadership Program.

I can tell you that the trustees of this program have missed the boat!

There was not one second, one word or one piece of paper that was a waste of time. The entire program was a first-class operation dedicated to the improvement of masonry in Texas. The instructors were enthusiastic, knowledgeable, truthful and made themselves available to everyone at all times. You could not ask a question that was not taken seriously. Each Mason present was given instructions on how to be a leader, how to work for and with the members of the lodge, how to settle disputes, when and how to help a fallen brother, how to search for leaders in your lodge, how to handle criticism, how to create fellowship and how to do fundraisers. We were taught that a lodge is run by a set of principals, and not by power. We were taught that keeping the members informed, being truthful and not excluding anyone about anything is the right thing to do.

There is not time nor space to list the education and instruction that was made available to each of us; suffice it to say, it was more than you could absorb in one weekend.

At the end of the program, Most Worshipful Grand Master Reese Harrison, Right Worshipful Elmer Murphey, Right Worshipful Donny Broughton and Right Worshipful Brian Dodson sat in front of the room and answered questions. There were no hats, no rank and no preplanning, just Masons asking questions and getting honest answers. The questions asked were varied from what was the status of the Home and School to how should you properly do a Masonic investigation. No matter how painful the question, it was answered with truthfulness and seriousness.

At the beginning of this article I made the statement that the trustees were missing the boat.

This program is so well run, so organized, with so much information that it should be a requirement that every mason in Texas attend this seminar.

Until that happens, the Masons of Texas will continue to miss the boat.

**Fraternally,
Duncan Chapman, J.W.**

Meet your Senior Deacon, Patrick B. Porter by Patrick Mahoney, P.M.

Patrick was Raised a MM on August 7, 2002 at Holland Lodge. He has served as the Master of Ceremonies last year and continues his service in Holland Lodge as the Senior Deacon. After he attended his Grandfathers Funeral and saw the Masonic Service, Patrick decided to inquire about Masonry and found Holland Lodge. He says he felt it important to carry on the tradition his Grandfather held so dearly, being a Master Mason. His Grandfather must be pleased.

Patrick was born in New Orleans while his Dad was working as an engineer in the Oil Field Service industry. He has two younger Brothers, one in Austin in the Real Estate Business and the other in New York City in the film business.

Patrick attended Alief Hastings High School where he served as President of his Senior Class in addition to excelling in his class work. He worked as the Trainer for the football team for 4 years. This lead him to an Athletic Scholarship at Rice University as the Trainer for the Football and Basketball teams. Patrick is a Member of The Letterman Club of Rice University. While serving as Trainer for the Rice Owls he had the opportunity to travel with Teams across America, go on tour in Europe. He earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Computer Science in 2001. By the way Patrick manages the HollandLodge.org website.

He works for Scalable Software doing Sequel Database and Oracle programming for computer asset management and software licensing program. He says it keeps companies hardware and software inventories and licenses up to date.

Meeting the Members of Holland Lodge and introducing the Visitors keeps him moving at Stated Meeting but he looks forward to seeing all the Members at Lodge at least once this year. Come and greet our Senior Deacon, particularly if you have a sprained ankle - he can tape it up real good.

Be sure to watch for more Meet Your Officers in the coming months!

Have you ever wanted to contribute to the Alpha? Now is your opportunity.

We are seeking members who wish to participate and contribute articles about Masonic Topics or Experiences.

There is a wealth of knowledge out there just waiting to be submitted.

Need ideas? I can help...

Call Bill Jr at 713-771-7226 to discuss or email your article to sessumsjr@houston.rr.com

Welcome to Our Newest Affiliated Members!

**Charles H. Harvey
And
Donald R. Mapp**

We look forward to seeing at Holland Lodge!

From the Secretary

Grand Lodge reservations are now being made. Please RSVP by sending your check for \$154 to reserve your room and meals in Waco, December 2, 3 &4.

Be sure to make you reservation checks payable to Holland Lodge No. 1.

New Endowed Member

Marvin Labohm Jr.

**Remember, only \$500
for an Endowed Membership!**

Are you online?

Have you been to www.HollandLodge.org ?

Do you get the e-Alpha notices on your email?

**Send you email address to sessumsjr@houston.rr.com
and get online with your Lodge!**

Lodge Activities/Calendar

August 30	Master Degree Practice
September 1	Master's Degree
September 6	Dark for Holiday
September 8	Stated Meeting
September 13	Dark
September 15	EA Degree Practice
September 20	School of Instruction
September 22	FC Exam
September 27	Master Degree Practice
September 29	Master's Degree
October 4	School of Instruction
October 13	Stated Meeting
October 23	Scholarship Fund Raiser!

**Lodge Activities and events
are updated regularly on the
Lodge website
www.hollandlodge.org
Be sure to check
for updates as well as pictures
of events and more!**

Officers Of Holland Lodge No. 1

		HOME	OFFICE	e-mail
Worshipful Master	Earl A. Thompson	(713) 466-8452	(281) 376-5530	WorshipfulMaster@HollandLodge.org
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Musician	Rodney Elliot	(713) 236-0359		Rodney@CommerceStreet.org
Tiler	Budd Baumgardner	(713) 666-3625		
Immediate PM	Patrick D. Mahoney	(713) 932-1993	(713) 552-1700	Patrick@mahoney-associates.com

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