

Blackmer Lodge

Bulletin



A monthly bulletin of information for the members, families and friends of
Blackmer Lodge #442, Free and Accepted Masons, California, USA

May, 2004

Volume XCI, Number 5

TWO THINGS WORTH LIVING FOR

*"The labor of the righteous tendeth to life;
the fruit of the wicked to sin"*
Prov. 10:16

Masonic writings inform us that there are but two things worth living for: to *do* what is worthy of being written, and to *write* what is worthy of being read. The greater of these is *the doing*. No matter how magnificent and noble an act an author can describe or the artist paint, it is far nobler for you to go and do that which one describes, or be the model which the other draws. In other words, when we pause to look within ourselves to assess how well we are doing in living life, the standard by which every Mason measures his past, present and future worth is his work and example to others.

Our Craft teaches us that contributions to the best interests of our fellowman is the noblest work of all. In the great Providence of God, in the great ordinances of our being, there is opened to every man a sphere for the noblest action. More often than not, that sphere is not of extraordinary heights, rather it is borne of the exemplification of extraordinary virtues displayed during an ordinary life. It arises more often during times of silence and seclusion, in wearing sickness without complaint, displaying sorely tried honesty that asks no praise, and privately yielding advantage to another. It is natural that all men desire distinction, but those who seem happiest in its pursuit are they who seek to find principles, or attempt to develop beauty. Such is the true harmony of the universe. Every Mason has a work to do in himself, greater than any work of genius; a work upon a nobler material than marble or stone - upon his own soul and intellect. A great author or artist only portrays what man should be, or conceives what he should do, both virtuous and commended to our mutual admiration and imitation. Yet, the practical realization of the great

ideals of art include the exercise of love, piety, truth and right. They are displayed in the daily routine of ordinary lives and survive as a testament to the real character of a Mason.

Duty is with us always and forbids idleness. To work with the hands or brain according to each one's skill and capacity is more honorable than title and privilege. When we consider the world in its primitive creation, we well understand that God was wise to give us a dark mass upon which to work; an empty canvass upon which to draw the character of our existence. Man is thereby taught and encouraged to create as He creates, to love as He loves, and to add to the beauty of His splendid bounty.

When time has finally run its course and we have concluded this wondrous journey, who among our survivors will honor the memory of the riches we have accumulated? Who will recall that we lived a life of luxury? Who will want to recount the deeds of treachery that drove us to the top of the heap? Such things are but vanity and will wash away in our dust. But, what we do for others will live forever.

May the Great Architect Bless You
John Heisner

**SUPPORT YOUR LODGE AND
ITS PROGRAMS.
YOUR
ATTENDANCE IS NEEDED AND
ENCOURAGED!**

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contact us

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FROM THE EAST

The month of April was busy for the brethren and officers of Blackmer. At our Stated Meeting, the students from Hillsdale Middle School were welcomed at dinner, together with their families and Principal, Louise Conway. A \$500 cash scholarship was awarded to Stephanie Hable, an eighth grader whose essay about "Why Public Education is Essential to a Free Society" was judged the best of this Blackmer sponsored event. Later during the month, Blackmer held a dine-out in conjunction with the Al Bahr Shrine Yacht Club at Mexican Village in Coronado. Bro. Rick Carlson is the Commodore this year and escorted the Shrine Divan from Broadway Pier to the Coronado Ferry Landing, where a contingent of Blackmer brothers assisted me in welcoming the entourage.

The Warden retreats will take place during this month and will be attended by our Junior and Senior Wardens. Our officers are also preparing to attend the annual Southern California visit by the Grand Lecturer, which will include new instruction from the recently minted Grand Lodge floor-work cipher. There have been some modifications to our ritual this year which are intended to improve the consistency in degree work from Lodge to Lodge.

I wish to thank all of the officers for their support during the first quarter of 2004. Without their commitment to our work, Blackmer would suffer greatly. A special acknowledgement to Wor. Coren Andrews, this year's Sr. Warden, for his tremendous work editing our Bulletin, efforts to secure Blackmer's financial future, and timeless devotion to coaching all of the officers. Bro. Johnny Johnson, our Secretary, has kept the wheels moving smoothly and is once again the backbone of the Lodge. Bro. Nestor Bala continues to bless us with his beautiful prayers from the Chaplain's Place. Wor. Duane Ely, Sr. Deacon, and Bro. Harold Thurber have been anchors to Lodge stations that have proven somewhat shaky in years past. Bro. Harold Weiss, our Treasurer, is once again sponsoring the Entertainment Book fundraiser. Bro. Harry Besnoy, our Tiler, has creatively proposed a Rusty Trowel Night that is under planning to allow members who have not attended Lodge for awhile to reacquaint themselves with our ritual. Our Jr. Past Master Mike Zdravkovic, this year's Jr. Warden, is busy working with other Masonic bodies and is now a bishop in his Church. Bros. Les Pond and Arnie Korey, this year's Sr. and Jr. Stewards, are also extremely busy with their respective duties to Blackmer, Scottish Rite, York Rite, Al Bahr, and the community. Bro. Matt Foulger is completing his formal education and has become a very fine new member recruiter.

This month, the officers will be further busying themselves with the daunting task of organizing and preparing for the Grand Master's Reception in September. We will require a fairly accurate head count by no later than June. If you plan on attending on September 11, 2004, please call our Secretary and make your reservations.

John Heisner, Master

*** NOTICE OF VOTE ON RESOLUTION ***

A resolution was read at the April Stated Meeting to modify Article IX, Section 1 of Blackmer Lodges By-Laws. This resolution was held over per CMC and will be voted on at the Stated Meeting of May 6, 2004, 7:30 p.m. and is stated as follows:

Article IX, Section 1: The dues of each member of this Lodge will be the sum of \$65.00 plus the Per Capita sum approved by Grand Lodge at the immediately preceding Annual Communication, per annum, payable in advance on the first day of January.

ANNUAL LODGE GIVING

Over the years, you have heard many good reasons to make your gift to the Masonic Homes of California or the California Masonic Foundation. At a time when we had 150,000 Masons in this jurisdiction, a \$10 or \$20 gift was all it took to keep these organizations healthy. Times have changed. Simply put, fewer of us must do more.

-- Health care costs have risen dramatically over the years. Our brothers, wives and widows are now living longer, and requiring more expensive types of care. The Homes is doing our work for us. They need our support!

-- The Foundation is increasing its focus on supporting our teachers in the public schools. We believe we make a difference with our Masonic Student Assistance Program. Just ask a child whose life has improved because of it.

-- We now have a new Alzheimer's Unit in Union City to support those vulnerable members of our family who suffer from dementia. Who knows what the next important advance in care will be. Don't our brothers, wives and widows deserve the best care available? What would we want for our brothers and widows of Blackmer Lodge in need?

Please make your gift soon. We all need to do our part. Ask Johnny for a pledge card, and make a gift that represents your own ability and your concern for our programs and their future.

BLACKMER GIFTS - SINCE JUNE 30, 2003
Members numbering 43 and other contributors have made gifts totaling \$2,430.00. Thank you to those who have given and to those who will.

Blackmer Lodge Bulletin

A monthly bulletin of information for the members, families and friends of Blackmer Lodge #442, Free and Accepted Masons, California, USA. Our objective is to disseminate information of interest to the members, families and friends of Blackmer Lodge #442, F&AM of San Diego, California, USA.

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Subscription is free and all material is copyright by Blackmer Lodge #442 or other sources and may be reprinted with proper credit given. The Blackmer Lodge Bulletin is published monthly except August with a circulation of about 500 copies. Please note that errors and omissions occasionally occur and for which we sincerely apologize. Please submit articles to the editor by e-mail, US Mail or at the lodge by the 15th of the month for publication.



FROM THE SECRETARY

Please make your reservations for the Honored Ladies Luncheon. It will be at NOON on May 20. Reservations by May 17 please.

Worshipful John Heisner and **Brother Harold Thurber** recently received the prestigious Albert Pike Award from the Scottish Rite.

Borther Richard Markson is Fleet Captian-elect of the Imperial Association of Shrine Yacht Clubs and will be installed on July 6 in Denver, Colorado.

We still have some members who have not paid their 2004 dues, your dues payment is due on January 1st so take a few moments and send in your dues payment. It will be greatly appreciated.

When you call the office and leave a message, PLEASE speak slowly and repeat your phone number twice. I cannot return your call if I don't know who you are and cannot figure out your phone number.

Blackmer Night at the Padres???? contact Worshipful John or Johnny.

Fraternally, Johnny Johnson, Secretary

BULLETIN BY EMAIL

A growing number of your fellow members of Blackmer Lodge in receiving your copy of the Bulletin electronically. To join in, just drop an email note to the editor, Coren Andrews at ctandrews@comcast.net to begin receiving your Bulletin in an email.

Be on the cutting edge, contact Coren Andrews at ctandrews@comcast.net.

GRAND LECTURER MEETING

Join in at 7:30 am for an all day meeting with the Grand Lecturer. The Degrees will be presented by a very knowledgeable group of Inspectors. Lunch is \$10 and all officers must be there. Interested Master Masons are invited also. May 8 is the date, 7:30 a.m.

LODGE MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

San Diego session - July 10, See Coren for information or on line at www.freemason.org

BIRTHDAYS

Coren Andrews, PM	5/12
Robert Balingier	5/26
C. Wade Beason	5/14
Joe Brennan	5/05
William Brown	5/25
Shaun Case	5/20
Jack Cox	5/02
Benjamin Grossman	5/26
Gary Hayslip	5/13
John Heisner	5/11
Ellsworth Henderson	5/21
Robert Johnson, Jr.	5/01
Ronald Krasner	5/09
Frederick McLaughlin	5/10
Ronald Newell, PM	5/18
Daniel Ober, Sr.	5/14
Clinton Potter	5/26
Raymond Reile	5/13
Madison Rogers, PM	5/06
Donald Wenzel	5/08
W. Shannon Williams	5/19
Mihailo Zdravkovic	5/13

Happy Birthday to these Brethren! We would like to wish you a happy birthday in person at the Stated Meeting dinner of your birth month. Please do join us and remember that your dinner is on the Lodge.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY.

HONORED LADIES LUNCHEON

Our event chairman, Worshipful Brother Galen, and Worshipful Master Mike, invite you to this stellar event. The Honored Ladies are guests at our fine Lodge (other ladies, guests and brethren, \$10.00). We would like your reservation by May 17 for the event which will be at NOON on Thursday, May 20. A superb menu has been planned guaranteed to make your taste buds do nip-ups.

Call reservations to: 619-291-0465

HONORED LADIES LUNCHEON

Please be considerate and make your dinner reservations early. If you are going to come to one of our dinners, make reservations. Two days in advance is sufficient, but please reserve.

Upon checking, the Secretary finds there are several members who have STILL not paid their 2002 dues. Please do so as soon as possible and include the amount of your 2003 dues which are also due.

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



*Personal Responsibility
 Accept It and Teach It*

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MAY 2004, CALENDAR

- May**
- Sat 1st** Spaghetti dinner at Joseph Shell Lodge, 5:00 p.m. reservations please
 - Mon 3rd** Mexican Food Night at Las Parielles, El Cajon, 6:30 p.m.
 - Thurs 6th** **Stated Meeting** at 7:30 p.m. Dinner at 6:30 p.m. Reservations please call 619-291-0465. Free Dinner drawing. Guest Speaker is Bill Miklos, San Diego Commandery No. 25, "Knights Templar Lore"
 - Sat 8th** **Grand Lecturer Meeting - see article**
 - Mon 10th** Dark
 - Thurs 13th** Officers' Practice: Second Degree, 6:30 p.m.
 - Mon 17th** Dark

 - Thurs 20th** HONORED LADIES LUNCHEON AT NOON
 - Thurs 20th** Exemplification of Second Degree, 7:15 p.m. please be there

 - Mon 23th** **ISI, 35 hosts 574 who will do First Degree and Long Close, 7:00 p.m.** Officers, call the Inspector if you cannot be there
 - Thurs 27th** Darius-San Diego Chapter, York Rite
 - Mon 31st** **Memorial Day - Remember and Be Safe**

- June**
- Thurs 3rd** **Stated Meeting** at 7:30 p.m. Dinner at 6:30 p.m. Reservations please call 619-291-0465.

MAY STATED MEETING DINNER MENU

- Beef Tri-Tip and Cheese or Chicken Enchiladas
- Scalloped Potatoes and Refried Beans
- Spring Mix Salad and Pineapple Upside Down Cake
- Rolls, Tortillas and Beverages