

# Blackmer Lodge

# Bulletin



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

February, 2005

Volume XCII, Number 2

## IN UNITY

*"Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!"*

Ps. 133:1

Freemasonry recognizes certain inalienable rights of men to have different opinions on many vital issues of life; the principles of freedom of thought and liberty of conscience form a part of the fundamentals of our institution. Genuine unity in mind and heart, and in the noble purposes of the Craft, is urged at all times. True brotherly love and genuine fraternalism are cultivated, and a community of interest among brethren of the "Mystic Tie" is maintained at all times. This tie grows out of the vows of eternal brotherhood, irrespective of differences in race, nationality, material and social conditions, and religious affiliations. Our devotion to these and other Masonic tenets has remained steadfast throughout times of greatest stress to our Nation from the Revolutionary War, to the Civil War and on into today. Throughout, the voice of Freemasons have resonated as sounds of reason during moments of chaos. Throughout, Masonic speakers taught that our greatest enemy does not approach from without, but from within.

In the work entitled *The Fire from Within*, Carlos Castenada hears these words from his teacher: "Self-importance is man's greatest enemy. What weakens him is feeling offended by the deeds and mis-deeds of his fellow man. Self-importance requires that one spend

most of one's life offended by something or someone." With the self as your focal point, you sustain the illusion that you are your own body; a completely separate entity from all others. It is that sense of separateness that leads men to compete rather than cooperate with everyone else. Likely, you have seen such people at your place of work, living in your neighborhood, serving on community boards, or regularly attending your church, synagogue, or mosque. While fortunately a rare occurrence, you have also probably seen such people sitting in your very own Lodge room.

It is essential that we each maintain a strong self-concept and feel unique. The problem arises when we misidentify who we truly are by identifying ourselves as our body, our achievements, our possessions and our personal dogma. Mankind's gravest conflicts have resulted primarily from an insistence that one point of view was right and the opposite point of view worthy of nothing less than subjugation or annihilation. If we as Freemasons voice our approval of such divine concepts as charity and justice, is it not our duty to conduct ourselves with love and fairness toward all whom we meet? Is it not our duty when we witness self-importance

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**contact us**

**Lodge Office  
619-291-0465**

**FAX**

**619-291-1364**

## FROM THE SECRETARY

VERY IMPORTANT—IF YOU MOVE PLEASE LET US KNOW YOUR NEW ADDRESS.

It costs your Lodge almost a dollar to have your mail forwarded.

Congratulations to our newly initiated Entered Apprentice Brother Mark Kaufman. We had a very nice degree for Brother Kaufman, with 6 visitors from Black Mountain and SW Hackett Lodges.

Things are moving along with the year end paper work and the start of the New Year. We still have several members who have not paid their dues for this year, please take a few moments and send us your check.

I am sorry to report that we lost another one of our Brothers to the Celestial Lodge. Brother Marcus Klein passed away on January 15, 2005. May he rest in eternal peace.

Our Past Master Worshipful Richard Saldano is getting better after suffering a stroke. We hope to see him back in Lodge in the very near future.

It is very important that you call in your reservations for dinner at our Stated Meetings. Call us at 619-291-0465.

If you have any questions please call me.

Fraternally, John  
Johnson



## RITUAL COMPETITION RULES- 2005

**Competition Position:** Senior Deacon

**Competition Degree:** Second Degree

**Degree Section:** Second Section

**Competition Area:** Middle Chamber Lecture

**Reference:** California Cipher Ritual:

**Competition Area:** Page 87, line 12 to Page 96, end of Line 18.

**Reference:** California Ritual Supplement:

**Competition Area:** Page 4 - 14, & 38.

### Judging:

- o Words (Pronunciation, Enunciation, Overall Presentation)
- o Words (Added word (phrases), missing word, missing sentence, missing paragraph)
- o Floor/Rod Work.

### COMPETITION DATES

District Elimination: **June** (Best in District)

Division Elimination: **July** (Best in Division)

State Elimination: **August** (Best in California)

Awarding: **October** (Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge)

### Details:

This competition is open to all Master Masons, with the exceptions of current Inspectors and current Grand Lodge Officers. The District Inspector will establish the competition date (during June), time, and location for his District competition and notify all competitors. The District Inspector, with suitable assistance, will select the Best Ritualist to represent the District. The Inspector will mail the winner's registration form to his Assistant Grand Lecturer, who will inform each competitor of the date (during July), time and location for the Regional (if necessary) and Division competition. The Assistant Grand Lecturer, with suitable assistance, will select the Best Ritualist to represent the Division. The Assistant Grand Lecturer will mail the winner's registration form to the Grand Lecturer, who will inform each competitor of the date (during August), time, and location for the Statewide competition. The Grand Lecturer and Assistant Grand Lecturers will judge the final Statewide Ritual Competition to identify the Best Ritualist in California. The Division finalists and Best Ritualist in California recipients will be invited, at their own expense, to receive their award at Grand Lodge (or presented to them at a later time). Contact your District Inspector if you have any questions.

## MASONIC HOMES ENDOWMENT FUND

The Lodge will accept your contribution to the FUND, when you send your Dues Check or at any other time. When we receive a contribution, we log it into the report we send to Grand Lodge. When you write a check for The Masonic Homes Endowment Fund, be sure to include FUND after Masonic Homes Endowment. If you don't, your contribution could be deposited in the Homes operating account. Please make your contribution as large as you can.

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 EAST

Brethren and Ladies, We look forward to seeing you at our Stated Meeting dinners. The food and fellowship are wonderful. Thank you to all who offered prayers for our friends and brethren who have recently been in distress. Brother Saldano is recovering and will hopefully be back in Lodge soon and our Brother Secretary Johnny and Joyce's son in doing better after a very bad fall from the roof of his house.

Blackmer Lodge presented the First Degree to its newest member, Mark Kaufman on January 20th. The Degree was very well done and we welcome Brother Kaufman into Blackmer Lodge.

We have more degree work in the offing and pending election, will confer the Entered Apprentice Degree again on February 28.

Brethren, we need to have you participate in and attend Lodge activities. Without you participation, the active officers of you Lodge are merely caretakers of this wonderful body.

We were told that our neighbor Lodge, S. W. Hackett will be having a Third Degree on February 8th. This is on our calendar as a Blackmer Lodge visitation. Lets see if we can provide some sideliners for them. Come along and visit.

Fraternally,

Coren Andrews, WM



## IN UNITY continued from page 1

spinning its vicious web to actively exert our own influence in an effort to promote cooperation and compromise? Is it not also our duty to know that we cannot always be right in what we do, think and say?

While Freemasonry was very active before, during and after our country's Civil War and speakers from various Grand Lodges around the Union pleaded for reason to reign, the wretched influence of self-importance prevailed and senseless slaughter resulted. The teachings of Freemasonry were tossed aside by a European continent boiling with self-important anger and resentment which led to World War I and the destruction of a generation of souls whose contributions to mankind will never be known. Faith, hope and charity vanished beneath the cataclysmic weight of World War II, as self-important tyrants scorched the earth in an effort to control other men's lives.

If you privately ask yourself whether or not your conduct, speech and thoughts are motivated by feelings of self-importance, what is your truthful answer? When you are perfectly honest with yourself, are you truly tolerant of another person's religious and political beliefs, or do you believe yours are better? As you consider how you have spent your life, can you honestly say to yourself you have always sought to live "on purpose" and serve God? If, as is likely true of all of us, you find that you have not always lived up to the promises you made when you became a Mason, do not despair. You would never have become a Mason if others had not seen in you the potential to bring honor to our great and glorious fraternity. Simply do as you did when you first entered a Lodge: kneel and askiGod to assist you in this great and important undertaking.

May the Great Architect of the Universe Bless You,  
John R. Heisner, P.M.

## BIRTHDAYS

Hatim Askar	2/18
Ralph Barnes, PM	2/09
Thomas Buckel	2/08
Harry Cattrell	2/13
Frederick Cawthorne	2/01
Kenneth DeVault	2/01
Richard Disraeli	2/26
Thomas Hom	2/15
Errol Kader	2/27
Richard McKee	2/15
Greg Maizlish	2/24
Guy Michael	2/15
Tommy Nilson, PM	2/18
Charles Reid	2/12
Norman Ross	2/07
Bernard Surovsky	2/06
Joseph Van Holst	2/04

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.



## 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](mailto:ctandrews@comcast.net) to begin receiving your Bulletin in an Email.

Be on the cutting edge, contact Coren Andrews at [ctandrews@comcast.net](mailto:ctandrews@comcast.net).

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**PLEASE CHECK YOUR DUES CARD. IT SHOULD SAY "PAID THROUGH DECEMBER, 2004.**

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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.

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**Bulletin**

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 Blackmer Lodge #442, Free and Accepted Masons, California, USA

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Freemasonry: Values that Brighten our  
 Communities, Share the Light

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**FEBRUARY 2005, CALENDAR**

**February**

- Thurs 3rd** **Stated Meeting** at 7:30 p.m. Dinner at 6:30 p.m.  
 Reservations please call 619-291-0465. Officers and members  
 and ladies - **wear RED**
- Mon 7th** Lodge Dark
- Tues 8th** **Visit S. W. Hackett Lodge Third Degree**
- Thurs 10th** Lodge Dark
- Mon 14th** Practice First Degree, 6:30 p.m.
- Thurs 17th** Lodge Dark
- Mon 21st** Practice First Degree, 6:30 p.m.
- Thurs 24th** **ISI, 574 hosts, 837 works Second Degree and Long Form Close,**  
 Escort of Inspector, all Officers to be present, 7:00 p.m. Call  
 Inspector if you cannot attend.
- Mon 28th** **First Degree, Lodge opens at 7:15 p.m.**

**March**

- Thurs 3rd** **Stated Meeting** at 7:30 p.m. Dinner at 6:30 p.m.  
 Reservations please call 619-291-0465. **All wear GREEN**
- Mon 7th** Lodge Dine Out Night, Location TBD, 6:30 p.m.

**FEBRUARY STATED MEETING DINNER MENU**

I lost the menu but it should be great!  
 Call your reservations to Johnny at 619-281-0469

