

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, 2005

Volume XCII, Number 5

THE FATHERHOOD OF GOD

*"So God created man in his own image, in the image of
God created he him; male and female created he them."
Gen. 1:27*

Masonry teaches that man is the offspring of God by creation, that God made mankind of one blood, and that God's fatherly love for man finds its greatest expression in his redemptive plan for fallen humanity. Religions will disagree about the actual nature of that plan, but none dispute the fact that a plan of redemption does exist. Masonic teachings steer clear of such disputes and permit each brother to lean upon the faith of his choice for understanding. However, Masonry does temptingly lure each one of us to ponder the deeper meaning behind why God would bother? When all is said, we are truly a pitiful race. We kill each other, we starve each other, we permit poverty to continue its miserable torture decade after decade, and we barely tolerate a neighbor who fails to see the things in life as we see them. Is it possible that even the worst among us are truly God's children?

Borrowing generously from ancient hermetic thought, certain Masonic writers have postulated that God cannot help but love us, both the good and the bad, because we are one with Him. Some will insist that the Divine and human intellect are identical; that indeed what some refer to as the Holy Spirit lives in our mind, which is the seat of man's soul. This notion is not peculiar to Masonry and can actually be discerned from the writings today by several popular "self-improvement" authors. It is also a notion that was emphatically adopted by Albert Pike.

As Pike observed, "...all Light is one, so all Intellect and Reason being one; each Human

Intellect a minute ray of the Infinite Intellect." Pike, Lecture on Masonic Symbolism. Can such thinking be merely the result of human vanity and conceit, or is there a basis in truth for knowing that we are, each one of us "in God?" Justin Martyr, a Roman Catholic, wrote during the middle of the second century that the doctrine of the unity of God is above all other doctrines. Indeed, until Irenaeus wrote in the latter second century about the theology of "dualism," that is God exists separately and apart from man, most of whom we have come to refer to as "The Ancient Fathers" promoted the belief that God, the all-being cause and creator of everything, existed in the very soul of man acting, as it were, as man's conscience.

We often hear today's Masonic speakers describe our fraternity as, "A brotherhood of man under the Fatherhood of God." It matters not that you adopt a unitarian point of view, the concept of dualism, or notions of pantheism (God existing in everything, everywhere). It only matters that you recognize the Great Truth that God is and you are, because He is. You are no more and no less important to God than your neighbor. The important duties you owe to God, your neighbor and yourself are found in the Volumn of the Sacred Law. Read it often and learn how essential it is to be forgiving, nurturing, tolerant and loving. When you fail to be those things to others, you deprive others of God's very Light and contribute darkness to the collective soul of mankind by your bitterness, anger, hate and vituperations.

Be a beacon of light to the world - a minute ray of divinity. Be a Mason.

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

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contact us

**Lodge Office
619-291-0465**

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619-291-1364

FROM THE SECRETARY

May is going to be a very busy month.

First we have the Stated Meeting on the 5th, Hiram Award on the 9th, Honored Ladies Luncheon on the 19th

Please call in your reservations for dinner on all of the above events. It is extremely important, so that we know how much food to order.

I know that I mention this every month, but there are a few members who have not paid their dues. This dues is due on the first of January, so that you may be in good standing. We have a new email address in the Lodge. (blackmer442@lodgestxmail.com) please change your records.

If you know of a Brother or his family that is not feeling up to par please let our Chaplain or me know, so that we can get in contact with them and see if we can help.

Fraternally
Johnny Johnson, Secretary

SUPPORT YOUR LODGE AND ITS PROGRAMS.

YOUR ATTENDANCE IS NEEDED AND ENCOURAGED!

HIRAM AWARD CEREMONY

The Hiram Award Committee, consisting of past Blackmer Hiram Award recipients, has selected Brother Laverne "Johnny" Johnson as the 2005 recipient of this prestigious award. This is the highest Masonic honor that can be conferred upon any Blue Lodge member, and as such your officers will host an appropriate conferral ceremony on May 9, 2005. Dinner will begin at 6:30 p.m. and will precede the ceremonies, which will follow in the Heald Room. In that a large gathering is expected, reservations with our Secretary, are a must.

The ceremonies will be conducted in an open Lodge setting to permit all Masons and non-Masons the to attend. The Master of Ceremonies intends to offer an explanation of this prestigious award. He and others will chronicle Brother Johnson's lengthy Masonic career, introduce honored guests and past Hiram Award recipients, as well as regale you with discrete stories about Brother Johnson's travels and journeys throughout his eventful Masonic life.

The date is Thursday, May 9, 2005. The time is 6:30 p.m. The attire is coat and tie. Reservations are required. Bring your Ladies and your non-Masonic friends to join in honoring Brother Johnny on what should be a most deserved and memorable moment in his Masonic life.

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.

HONORED LADIES LUNCHEON

NOON

Thursday, May 19, 2005
A superb menu has been planned and guaranteed to favor your taste buds.
Call in reservations
619-291-0465

Our event chairman this year is Brother Harry Bensnoy. He and Worshipful Master Coren, invite you to this stellar event. The Honored Ladies are guests of our fine Lodge (other ladies, guests and brethren, \$10 each). We would like your reservations by May 16th for the event which will be at NOON on Thursday, May 19th at the Scottish Rite Center. A superb menu has been planned, guaranteed to make your taste buds do flips. Call reservations to 619-291-0465.

James Russell Reget

Sunday, April 17, 2005

Soft and safe be thy resting place,
Bright and glorious be thy rising from it.

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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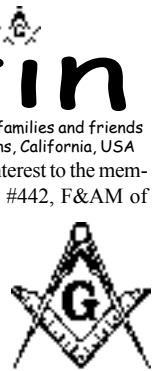
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Subscription is free and all material is copyright by Blackmer Lodge #442 or other sources and may be reprinted with proper credit given. The Blackmer Lodge Bulletin is published monthly except August with a circulation of about 500 copies. Please 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,

Please be sure to check the Calendar for upcoming events, degrees and practices. Your Lodge needs your participation and help. We have some dedicated Officers who spend a lot of time learning and practicing the work necessary to carry on the traditions of our Lodge. Many of them are busy in other organizations as well as in our Lodge. This has lead to a change in the scheduling of certain Lodge functions, so please be diligent and read the calendar and then come to Lodge. We don't think you will regret it.

We were truly saddened by the passing of Worshipful James Reget, Inspector of or District. Blackmer Lodge extends our sympathies to Jim's family during these trying times.

Three VERY important events this month!

May 9 - Brother Johnny Johnson will be presented the Hiram Award.

May 12 - First Degree for Mr. Sean Keller

May 19 - Honored Ladies Luncheon

And this:

"In this day and age the average person desires chiefly to be entertained. By reason of lack of finances the Lodge cannot successfully compete with the changing forms of entertainment available through other sources. The constant rendition of ritual, long and uninteresting meetings, the discussion of abstract educational topics, does not add to the drawing power of what a lodge is supposed to furnish. With all of the methods now in vogue for disseminating knowledge, the use of lectures, etc., to instruct has ceased to attract. We believe that if the ritual was shortened, the size of lodges reduced, and the main object of the meeting made an opportunity to become personally acquainted with one another, the conditions complained of could in part be remedied."

Brethren, this is from the 1930 Grand Lodge Proceedings of California!

Sound Familiar?

Fraternally,
Coren Andrews, Master



BIRTHDAYS

Coren Andrews, PM	5/12
Robert Balinger	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
John Heisner, PM	5/11
Ellsworth Henderson	5/21
Robert Johnson, Jr.	5/01
Ronald Krasner	5/09
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, PM	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.



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.

PLEASE CHECK YOUR DUES CARD. IT SHOULD SAY "PAID THROUGH DECEMBER, 2005."

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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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Freemasonry: Values that Brighten our
 Communities, Share the Light

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MAY 2005, CALENDAR

May

- Mon 2nd Candidates' Coaching at Lodge, 6:45 p.m.
- Thurs 5th Stated Meeting at 7:30 p.m. Dinner at 6:30 p.m.
 Reservations please call 619-291-0465.
- Mon 9th Hiram Award Dinner and Ceremony, 6:30 p.m.
- Thurs 12th Candidates' Coaching at Lodge, 6:45 p.m.
- Mon 16th First Degree for Mr. Sean Keller, 7:15 p.m.
- Thurs 19th Ladies Luncheon at NOON
 Candidates' Coaching at Lodge, 6:45 p.m.
- Mon 23rd ISI, 35 host, 442 work, First Degree and Long Close, 7:00
 p.m. all officers to be present - we are doing the work
- Thurs 26th Candidates' Coaching at Lodge, 6:45 p.m.
- Mon 30th Memorial Day - Remember

June

- Thurs 2nd Stated Meeting at 7:30 p.m. Dinner at 6:30 p.m.
 Reservations please call 619-291-0465.
- Mon 6th Practice - Second Degree, 6:45 p.m.
- Thurs 9th Candidates' Coaching at Lodge, 6:45 p.m.
- Mon 13th Second Degree, pending candidate availability 7:15 p.m.
- Thurs 16th Candidates' Coaching at Lodge, 6:45 p.m.

MAY STATED MEETING DINNER MENU

- Sliced Roast Beef and Chicken Enchiladas
- Baby Red Potatoes and Grilled Mixed Vegetables
- Cesar Salad and Croissants
- Beverages and Ice Cream



Call your reservations to Johnny at 619-281-0469

