



Trestleboard

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

November, 2005

Volume XCII, Number 11

THE AWAKENING

*"O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord."
Ez. 37:4*

From the beginning to end, the rituals of Freemasonry teach and symbolize the doctrine of man's immortality and repudiate every iota the doctrine of annihilation at death. This is the chief object of the Third Degree, as every Mason can testify. The Masonic idea of death is accompanied with no gloom, because it is represented only as physical sleep for an unknown period of time, from which there will be an awakening of the body and a resurrection of the soul. Yet, as with every other Masonic symbol, when we peel away the onion, another meaning is discovered. In the Book of Genesis, God and the serpent each have their say about life and death. There, God said, "Do not eat the fruit of the tree of knowledge or you will die." To the contrary, the serpent spoke to Eve, "You will not die." Did the serpent simply lie, or is it a matter of fundamental error on his part? Or, again did he state a truth from the range of truths proper to his domain? In other words, are there two immortalities and two different deaths - one from God's point of view and one from the serpent's?

Our empirical experience of death is the disappearance from the physical plane of living beings. But, that disappearance experienced also in the domain of consciousness, a state of being we call "forgetfulness," or "lack of knowledge." The core lesson in Freemasonry is the importance of knowledge, and therefore even the symbolism of the resurrection in our Third Degree must be viewed in that

context, as well as all other contexts. For our whole experience forgetting, sleep and death are three manifestations of the same thing - disappearance.

One forgets, one goes to sleep, and one dies. One remembers, one awakens, and one is born. In addition to intellectual "forgetting" there is also forgetting in the domain of the soul. The absence of faith, hope and charity shrivels the soul and darkens the spirit moving us from the light to the darkness. Thus, it is thoughts of the divine (faith, hope and charity) which raise the consciousness of the human soul and propel it to work. Without charity, the soul is dead even though the organism breathes. It is reduced to animal and mineral qualities and bear little affinity or resemblance to that Supreme Intelligence which pervades all nature and which will never, never, never die.

Freemasonry teaches each to evaluate death on the basis of the question, "What do I myself know about it?" It discards the question, "What is generally known?" That evaluation requires use of your memory, which is either mechanical, or moral. Moral memory is much more effective, because it does not link the present to the past on a physical plane. Rather, it links ordinary consciousness to spiritual consciousness - the source not only of our certainty of God, but also of the immortality of our own being. Next time you pray, exercise that memory the same way you exercise your mechanical memory when memorizing ritual. May the Great Architect of the Universe Bless You, John R. Heisner, P.M.

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contact us

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FROM THE SECRETARY

Look out Christmas is just around the corner.

October has been a very active month, we had the honor of raising two Brothers to the sublime degree of Master Mason. Congratulations to Mark Kaufman and Paul Athy.

Your officers went to Grand Lodge Session and will be giving their report in our November Stated Meeting.

November meeting will be the election of officers, so if you can make it, it would be greatly appreciated if you would attend our Stated Meeting on November 3rd. Dinner is at 6:30 P.M. and meeting is at 7:30 PM. Please call for reservations (619) 291-0465.

Its dues time, so if you have not already done so, please take a few moments and send in your dues.

If you know of a Brother or his Lady that are not feeling in the best of health please give me a call, and we will get in touch with them to see if we can help in any way

MOST IMPORTANT. IF YOU MOVE OR HAVE A NEW PHONE NUMBER PLEASE CONTACT THE LODGE AND GIVE US YOUR NEW ADDRESS AND PHONE NUMBER.

Fraternally
Johnny Johnson,
Secretary



WE HAD THE PLEASURE

We had the pleasure of hearing two excellent Second Degree proficiencies. So good in fact, that in each case we immediately conferred the Third Degree on the candidates. Mark Kaufman and Paul Athy are now Master Masons and entitled to all the rights and privileges of that Degree. You will be seeing more of both of them and we welcome them into Blackmer Lodge. We will soon have the pleasure of raising Brother Sean Keller (Nov. 10), please plan on attending. His Dad is coming out from Colorado and we should have as great a degree as we had for Mark and Paul. We continue to have the pleasure of coaching many of our new members who are working on proficiencies and will look forward to more degree work in the near future. You can help by attending Lodge and the Degrees!

FROM THE EAST

Your Master and Wardens thank the Lodge for sending them to Grand Lodge. We were among the roughly 1000 voting members of Grand Lodge that were in attendance. There were several hundred other attendees and the business and events were fun, informative and conducted with the usual expertise and ceremony. One little departure on Tuesday was when we were being dismissed for the lunch break, the Junior Grand Warden sent us to RECESS instead of REFRESHMENT. Even the Grand Master appreciated the humor in the error. Results of legislation are on page 3. Only one of the 15 resolutions passed with three carry-overs and one withdrawal and one out-of-order.

Be there on November 10 for Sean Keller's Third Degree, if his Dad can come from Colorado, surely you can come from San Diego.

Send your email address to the editor, ctandrews@comcast.net to be added to the distribution list, we're adding COLOR to your Bulletin!
Fraternally,
Coren Andrews, Master

ELECTIONS TO BE HELD

The annual election of officers for your Lodge will be held at the Stated Meeting on November 3rd. Put this important date on your calendars and plan on attending. We hope to have a very strong corps of officers next year lead by a couple Past Masters and some hard workers and some new faces. We will learn who they are and be there to congratulate them. The next step will be to support them at the Installation of Officers on the second Thursday in December.

CONGRATULATIONS AND THANK YOU

The Officers and Brethren of Blackmer Lodge congratulate Brother Harold Thurber on receiving the KCCH and Red Hat from the Scottish Rite. Quite an honor for one of our members.

We are also thankful for our members, Worshipful Brother, Galen Niedenfuehr, PM, who donated new collar jewels for our Officers' collars and to Brother Harold Weiss who made a donation to the Lodge to cover the expense of having the Officers' aprons cleaned. The heartfelt thanks of the Lodge is extended to these Brothers.

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.



2005 LEGISLATION

GRAND MASTER DOAN'S DECISIONS

Affirmed - 1 - Masonic Homes duty to provide care

Affirmed - 2 - Masonic Homes right to us assets

GRAND MASTER DOAN'S RECOMMENDATIONS

Passed 2005-01 Will permit the Grand Master to name various other permissible investments for California lodges as may be determined as prudent and appropriate.

Carry-over 2005-02 Will authorize Concordant and Appendant Masonic Organizations to conduct raffles for the benefit of their charities and for our Masonic Youth Orders to be able to conduct raffles for their charities and special needs such as leadership development and travel to special events.

Passed 2005-03 Recommends that the Grand Lodge Strategic Plan as distributed be adopted as the strategic plan until changed by subsequent Grand Masters.

Failed 2005-04 Would remove the requirement for the line officers to learn and give the lectures if a qualified brother will assist in that capacity for the entire year.

Carry-over 2005-05 Allows the Grand Master sole discretion to appoint or not appoint the Grand Standard Bearer, Grand Sword Bearer, Grand Bible Bearer and Grand Pursuivant.

Failed 2005-06 Removes the Grand Lecturer from the elected Grand Officers and makes him an appointment by the Grand Master from one of the Assistant Grand Lecturers.

Carry-over 2005-07 Allows a three year pilot program to allow the Grand Master to permit lodges to confer the degrees upon those candidates who have not progressed for at least a year, waiving the required proficiency between the degrees.

Passed 2005-08 Establishes a code review committee to report at next annual communication.

CARRYOVER GRAND MASTER KIRKPATRICK'S RECOMMENDATIONS

Passed 2004-01 Grand Master's Lodge

Passed 2004-02 Candidate's Fees to Grand Lodge

2005 RESOLUTIONS

Failed 05-01 Expands the scope of unmasonic conduct to include offences against Masonic affiliated organizations.

Failed 05-02 Would allow evidence of prior Masonic trials in setting penalties at a Masonic trial.

Failed 05-03 Expands scope of notification to other Masonic Lodges and organizations when a Masonic trial is pending or transferred.

Failed 05-04 Would allow committees to whom legislation has been submitted to recommend for or against that legislation.

Carry-over 05-05 Specifies what constitutes an emergent matter.

Carry-over 05-06 Seeks to establish that a motion to consider an emergent matter is debatable.

Failed 05-07 Seeks to preclude business before Grand Lodge being referred to the Executive Committee.

Failed 05-08 Would allow a Lodge's presiding officer the discretion to conduct business on the degree of his choice.

Carry-over 05-09 Would allow Lodges to store alcoholic beverages on Masonic property under certain safeguards and conditions.

Failed 05-10 Seeks to allow every Past Master a vote in Grand Lodge.

Failed 05-11 Modifies requirements regarding the Grand Lodge budget and adds the requirement of a two-thirds rather than a simple majority vote for adoption.

Failed 05-12 Seeks to permit any gambling activity not prohibited by federal, state or local law.

Withdrawn 05-13 Modifies the rules on Grand Lodge audits.

Passed 05-14 Permits Sierra Valley Lodge #184 to hold only 10 stated meetings a year.

BIRTHDAYS

Dudley Chambers	11/27
Harry Crystal	11/17
Frank Hass	11/02
Gerald Hoeg	11/26
Bob Humphrey	11/17
Arnold Korey	11/23
William Lingo, Jr. PM	11/23
Arturo Martin	11/4
N. Bert McIntosh, Jr	11/11
Milton Meyers	11/22
Elon Phillips	11/04
James Quinn, Jr.	11/03
Robert Schmidt	11/05
Thomas Swift	11/08
David Vogel	11/19

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.

DINING OUT

Our Brother Tiler, Harry Besnoy, has put together a Dining Out night for the pleasure of the members of the Lodge and families. Souplantation is the place, Monday, November 7th from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. is the date and time. We have a room reserved and with a coupon the tab should be less than \$8.

**Souplantation
In La Mesa on
Fletcher Parkway
between
Chambers and Dallas.**

DINING OUT

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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Freemasonry: Values that Brighten our
 Communities, Share the Light

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NOVEMBER 2005, CALENDAR

November

- Thurs 3rd** Stated Meeting at 7:30 p.m. Dinner at 6:30 p.m.
 Reservations please call 619-291-0465.
ELECTION OF OFFICERS
- Mon 7th** **DINING OUT - See article on page 3**
- Thurs 10th** **Third Degree - Sean Keller, 7:15 p.m.**
- Mon 14th** Dark
- Thurs 17th** Special Officers' Coaching at Lodge, 6:45 p.m.
- Mon 21st** Special Officers' Coaching at Lodge, 6:45 p.m.
- Thurs 24th** Thanksgiving, enjoy this time with your family
- Mon 28th** Masters' Questions Workshop, 7 p.m.
- Tues 29th** Wardens' Questions Workshop, 7 p.m.

December

- Thurs 1st** Stated Meeting at 7:30 p.m. Dinner at 6:30 p.m.
 Reservations please call 619-291-0465.
- Mon 5th** Practice for Installation, 6:45 p.m.
- Thurs 8th** Annual Installation of Officers, 7:30 p.m.

NOVEMBER STATED MEETING DINNER MENU

- Old Fashioned Meat Loaf and Chicken Parmesan
- Baked Potatoes and Green Beans Almandine
- Caesar Salad, Bread, Beverages
- Apple Crumb Cake

Call your reservations to Johnny at 619-291-0465

