

TRESTLEBOARD

Blackmer Lodge #442

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

June, 2007

Volume XCIV, Number 6

MOUNT MORIAH

*"Then Solomon began to build the house of the Lord
at Jerusalem in Mount Moriah,...."*

2Chr. 3:1

During the ritual performed in the Third Degree of Masonry, the candidate is told about a place referred to as Mount Moriah, but is not informed why it is of interest to Masons. Masonic tradition informs us that it was the place where Abraham was about to offer up his son, Isaac, but lifted him from the sacrificial altar upon hearing the voice of God. Also, it was there that King David is said to have met and appeased the destroying angel. Masonic tradition further informs us that during the era of David's son, Solomon, Hiram Abif was laid to rest at Mount Moriah by his assassins, who planted an acacia at the head of the grave so that it could be readily recognized later. Each of those stories seems to tie the spot to something very important to Masonry and mankind, but the answer as to what that might be is not made clear at any time during the Masonic ritual.

To learn the answer we begin first by returning to Abraham. The Holy Bible asserts that God entered into a covenant with Abraham and that through the lineage of his son, Isaac, promised that He would establish His kingdom forever. It was there that Isaac's sons Esau and Jacob eventually came together forming the Tribe of Judah, to which Masonry attributes the origination of the enormously significant symbolism known as the lion's paw. Later, the Holy Writings inform us that Moses led the Hebrews to Mount Moriah where the royal house of Judah was to be enthroned. Along the way they encountered any number of Canaanites, Amalekites, Edomites and others who sought without success to impede their journey.

Those stories from sacred scripture symbolically convey important spiritual lessons. Central to those lessons is the notion that life is a journey back to God. Along the way we can expect to encounter our own Canaanites and the like, who jump out at us as obstacles to reaching our goal. Only by exercising unceasing faith in God may we expect to clear the path of those obstacles – a faith that finds us in constant prayer and action.

After Moses settled his community of followers near Mount Moriah, we are informed again by the Holy Bible that he there erected a Tabernacle within which the Ark of the Covenant was placed. That Tabernacle was the first house erected by the Hebrews for the Lord God – a tent where it is said the Ineffable One was pleased to rest. Generations later, the Hebrews were ejected from the land, but returned under the banner of David, their first king, whose men carried before them the Ark of the Covenant, which is reported to have contained nothing less than the power of God. The High Priest, referred to by the generic priestly name of Zadok, reinstated the Ark in its holy environment and the Davidic kingdom was established. Mount Moriah was thereafter referred to by the Hebrews as the Rock of David. Today it is called the Dome of the Rock.

Undeniably, Mount Moriah has been regarded for centuries by Hebrews, Christians and Muslims as one of the holiest places in the entire world. It is to this sense of holiness that Masonry alludes by selecting the spot as a

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contact us

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FROM THE SECRETARY

Well the year is half over and were has the time gone. I have enjoyed the position of Lodge Secretary and I am constantly learning and want to thank everyone for their support and patience. I would request that you look at your DUES CARD and make sure it is current as the time comes near for the Lodge to send in to Grand Lodge the per capita for our Lodge Members.

The consolidation committee hopes to present the resolution to be read at the June stated meeting. We will then mail ballots to all members of Blackmer Lodge. I hope to see some new faces at our Stated meetings, you can call the Secretary for your reservations for dinner by the Monday before the Thursday Stated meeting. I encourage all members that can to come to a degree and watch the fine work that officers do.

We had a nice turn out for our Honored Ladies and we enjoyed a fine meal and fellowship, A thank you to our chairman Harry Besnoy.

Fraternally
Arnold L Korey,
Secretary

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place of importance during one of its most important ritualistic degrees. It may never be known whether or not a man named Hiram Abif was ever buried there, or that such a man ever actually existed. Masonry does not expect us to confirm or deny the truth of that allegory. Rather, Masons are expected to reflect upon the spiritual significance of establishing a kingdom of men under the fatherhood of God in an environment with which God is well pleased.

Reflecting for the moment upon the change of hands through which this revered location has gone offers us further insight into the wisdom of Masonry's refusal to endorse any one religion over any other religion. For centuries too many bloody wars have been fought for control of Mount Moriah; religious wars that have laid waste to beautiful monuments and cut-downs hundreds of thousands of men, women and children before their lives could be fully lived. Those wars and ravages are not merely a part of mankind's past – they are being fought today in one form or another. Throughout it all, whom does God prefer? Which faction does He favor? What religion will finally emerge as the one true religion for all mankind to follow?

Embracing the differences in all men, Masonry inculcates a deep appreciation for diversity and points its members in the direction of harmonizing those differences. Raging deadly warfare will eventually subside and a winner will emerge to claim the title of truest of all religions. Throughout history, such has always been so, but new wars have always followed with new and different winners claiming the title. The lesson for all humanity is that wars and hatred result only in death and destruction, not harmony.

But, what has all of this to do with how Masons should best live their daily lives? It is one thing to know and understand the "big picture" and quite another to learn where you personally fit into that big picture. Wars, tumults and divisive disputes always involve the assertion of competing self-interest. They are the result of the immense "me" of men's egos, which demand that others pay attention to them, listen to them and abide by what they say. Masonry asks you to exercise self-discipline and to curb your natural-born ego so that you are better enabled to appreciate and understand your brother's opposing point of

view. It is only by trying to become understanding of others that we eventually truly do become understanding. And, it is the process of learning that lesson that is at the core of fraternalism, or the greater love of one's brother.

Mount Moriah represents for us the center of Masonic activity where acts of kindness and loving concern for others are exchanged. It can be your own lodge, or it can be anywhere that brethren gather to bestow God's greatest gift on His creation – the love of one man for another. For us, too, it represents an important admonishment never to embrace anything of material value more dearly than we embrace another human being. There are no riches on earth more valuable than human life, which has been breathed into every person by God Himself. For that reason, no Mason should ever support or countenance any act toward any other person that is anything other than kind and loving.

John Heisner, PM

CONSOLIDATION NEWS

Stay tuned for additional news regarding the consolidation process and what will be happening over the next few months. Assuming the Great Architect has blessed the committees with the necessary wisdom and thought, each member of the Lodge will receive a letter explaining the final stage of the process, a terms of consolidation and fact sheet and a consolidation consent ballot along with an addressed and stamped envelope to send the ballot back. This last part is VERY important. You must return your ballot! If you agree to the consolidation, sign and date the ballot and mail it back to the lodge. If you disagree with the consolidation, write 'no' on the ballot and mail it back. Either way, it is a must to return your ballot.

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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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FROM THE EAST

Brethren,

It was a good feeling to read in the Fraternal Review #975 of The Southern California Research Lodge F & AM about US House Resolution regarding Freemasonry introduced by Representative Paul Gillmor (Ohio) before the Congress of the United States as follows:

Recognizing the thousands of freemasons in every State in the Nation, and honoring them for their many contributions to the Nation throughout its history. Whereas Freemasons, whose long lineage extends back to before the Nation's founding, have set an example of high moral standards and charity for all people;

Whereas the Founding Fathers of this great Nation and signers of the Constitution, most of whom were Freemasons, provided a well-ounded basis for developing themselves and others into valuable citizens of the United States;

Whereas members of the Masonic Fraternity, both individually and as an organization, continue to make invaluable charitable contributions of service to the United States;

Whereas the Masonic Fraternity continues to provide for the charitable relief and education of the citizens of the United States;

Whereas the Masonic Fraternity is deserving of formal recognition of their long history of care-giving for the citizenry and their example of high moral standards; and Whereas Freemasons have always revered and celebrated St. John's Day, June 24th, as dedicated to their patron saints;

Now, therefore, be it Resolved, That the House of Representatives recognizes the thousands of Freemasons in every State of the Nation and honors them for their many contributions to the Nation throughout its history."

Mihailo O'Zdravkovic, Master

DINING OUT

We know you will be please as we revisit The Great Moon Buffet for our June Dine-Out Night on June 4th, 6:30 p.m. We had a great time there last time and it is worthy of a return trip. Great Moon is at 1840 Garnet Avenue, in Pacific Beach. Closest cross street is Lamont Street. See you there, Harry.

GREAT BBQ AT ESD

Put this one on your calendars. East San Diego Lodge's annual Ed Denton Beef BBQ will be on Sunday, July 29th from 11:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. It is deep pit, slow cooked overnight and is really excellent. East San Diego Lodge is located at 7849 Tommy Drive in the San Carlos area of San Diego, just off Navajo Road and Cowles Mtn.

CONGRATULATIONS RICHARD SALDANO

Blackmer Lodge presented the prestigious Hiram Award to Worshipful Richard Saldano at a special event last month. With family, friends and brethren present, he received kind words and praise from Worshipfuls Galen Niednefuehr, John Heisner and Coren Andrews. The presentation was hosted by Worshipful Scott Pearce and Worshipful John Heisner presented the Medalion while Richard's wife, Pat, invested him with the pin. Congratulations, Richard.



BIRTHDAYS

James Mills	6/2
Sy Brenner	6/2
Earl Noll	6/2
August Dale	6/3
Howard Johnson	6/3
Donald Nutter	6/5
Evan Rose	6/5
David Magin	6/5
Max Amster	6/5
John Warner, PM	6/6
Jeffrey Merrick	6/10
Neil Simpson	6/13
Rolando DelosReyes	6/14
Edwin DeBolt	6/16
Harlod Dodds	6/17
Fred Kaufman	6/18
Dusan Martin, Sr., PM	6/21
Nestor Bala	6/22
David Bing	6/24
Scott Pearce, PM	6/26
Leonard Starbeck	6/27
Alex Bedoya	6/27
Harold Weiss	6/28
Gary Clare	6/29

Average age = - years old
Oldest = - years old
Youngest = - years old

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.

SUPPORT YOUR LODGE AND ITS PROGRAMS.

YOUR ATTENDANCE IS NEEDED AND ENCOURAGED!

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for email subscribers

- additional articles and information

PLEASE CHECK YOUR DUES CARD. IT SHOULD SAY "PAID THROUGH DECEMBER, 2007.

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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JUNE 2007 CALENDAR

June

- Mon 4th** Family Dine-out for delicious fare at The Great Moon in Pacific Beach at 6:30 p.m.
- Thurs 7th** **STATED MEETING** at 7:30 p.m. Dinner at 6:30 p.m. Reservations must call 619-291-0465. Business casual.
- Mon 11th** Proficiency Night, 7:00 p.m.
- Thurs 14th** **SECOND DEGREE - LaValle - 7:00 p.m.**
***** note the start time *** proficiency before the degree**
- Mon 18th** Practice - Third Degree at 6:45 p.m.
- Thurs 21st** **THIRD DEGREE - Delmar- 7:00 p.m.**
- Mon 25th** **THIRD DEGREE - Nobles- 7:00 p.m.**
- Thurs 28th** **Dark**

July

- Mon 2nd** Family Dine Out - TBA
- Thurs 5th** **Stated Meeting** at 7:30 p.m. Dinner at 6:30 p.m. Reservations please call 619-291-0465.

JUNE STATED MEETING DINNER MENU

- Entree and Another Entree
- Starch and Vegetable
- Salad and Bread
- Desert and Beverages



As you may have guessed, I cannot fine the real menu. Dinner will be great as usual.



You must call your reservations to Arnie at 619-291-0465



Richard Saldano Hiram Award Presentation

