

# 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

July, 2007

Volume XCIV, Number 7

## THE GREEN MAN

*"Unto what is the kingdom of God like? And where unto shall I resemble it? It is like a grain of mustard seed... and it grew..."*

Luke 13:18-19

The construction of Rosslyn Chapel, located north of Edinburgh in Scotland, was commenced in approximately 1446 by William Sinclair, who was reputed to have been a Knight Templar that was likely engaged in warfare in the Holy Land. While neither of those facts has been confirmed, the chapel he constructed is filled with images of stone that when viewed as a whole leaves the distinct impression that the site is religious. However, it is definitely not a Christian site and does not easily fit into any current well-known religious motif. It is, in a word, unique revealing evidence that the architect was very much involved with initiatory mysteries.

One of the stone images carved into the interior of the chapel symbolizes a *Green Man*, which in certain religious studies has been associated with so-called pagan religions. After carefully studying those images, it appears more likely that the *Green Man* is consistent with a more Masonic interpretation of the Deity than of any other religion or philosophy. The depiction is clearly that of a man's head with leafy vines growing from inside extending outward through the mouth and traveling upward forming a dense bushy vegetation.

While the figure certainly could symbolize the never-ending cycle of seasons and regeneration commonly found in other clearly defined pagan symbols, its origin is Greek and Roman. To them, the *Green Man* represented the full flowering of education and thus was inspirational to those contemplating the pursuit of knowledge. The *Green Man* later found his way into Christian symbolism where he represented the immortality of the spirit and the resurrection of Jesus. Regardless of whether the *Green Man* represents Jesus linking Heaven to Earth, or the more simplistic pursuit of knowledge, it is

undeniably the case that he also represents the growth of man's spirit.

Freemasonry's affinity to the pursuit of knowledge has never been solely because it benefits he who learns, but because it eventually benefits those with whom he who learns comes into contact. Masonic writers who have explored both the science and philosophy of alchemy have also provided us with insight into how the *Green Man* represents the benefit of one man's knowledge to another man's welfare. Freemasonry has consistently adopted the belief that the Supreme Architect of the Universe manifests Himself through human growth – the urge moving from within a human being to a manifestation of action.

There is no greater miracle than that produced by the tiny mustard seed, which when planted in the Earth produces a bush many thousand times its own size. The Holy Bible contains a parable that uses the tiny mustard seed to illustrate an important spiritual truth about the strength of faith. In Freemasonry, the Craft teaches that the Supreme Architect manifests Himself through an infinity of forms which is implanted into the dark material earth. One of those forms is art, which Masons are taught to both understand and create.

Art is a seed of man's spirituality, for from a simple sentence in a masterful work of literature, or from one line drawn in a painting flow messages and ideas that those who either read, or observe may interpret for their respective personal improvement. It is the basis for mankind's regeneration, or transmutation from a state of unknowing to a state of knowing – much like the ancient alchemists transformed tin into gold. Thus, the *Green Man* symbolizes the wisdom which man acquires from the knowledge he has gained as a direct result of his growth in spiritual matters commencing with the mustard

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**contact us**  
**Lodge Office**  
**619-291-0465**  
**FAX**  
**619-291-1364**

# FROM THE SECRETARY

HAPPY BIRTHDAY AMERICA. As we get ready to celebrate the 4<sup>th</sup> with picnics, fireworks, and time with our family and friends, take a moment and remember the people who fought and died for the freedoms that we enjoy today. Many of these people were MASONS .

The consolidation ballot with the fact sheet has been mailed to the members of both Lodges, Please read all the information and return your ballot in the enclosed envelope. If you have any questions please feel free to contact one of the members of the committee. Your vote is important. PLEASE RETURN YOUR BALLOT.

Fraternally  
Arnold L Korey,  
Secretary

## BULLETIN BY EMAIL

We want YOU to begin receiving your bulletin by email, send a note saying "I'm in!" to Coren Andrews at [ctandrews@ca.rr.com](mailto:ctandrews@ca.rr.com) TELL YOUR BRETHREN

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seed, or smallest particle of spiritual knowledge imparted to him.

It is fair to inquire at this point about what art a Mason should explore. Should it be an examination of the Da Vinci painting *The Last Supper*, which excited so much interest in the recent titillating books and movies about the legend surrounding the ancient Knights Templar? Is it the full and complete absorption of all literary works written by Albert Pike? Or, are you expected to absorb other types of art and discern the messages about God from those? While the answer that all art is important to man's growth is inexact, it is the truthful answer.

Academics around the globe are presently engaged in a concerted effort to identify the historical beginnings of Freemasonry. They do so by pursuing several avenues that promise empirical certainty once fully analyzed. However, since Freemasonry includes a diverse quantity of disciplines, it is not at all likely that the true origins will ever be discovered without a thorough evaluation of the symbolism Masonry has selected throughout the ages to impart wise and serious truths. One famous Masonic writer has gone farther and asserted that the origins of Freemasonry will never be traced, because that origin is veiled in superphysical mystery. Whether or not we will ever know the complete truth about Freemasonry's origin, one may begin the effort by pulling that veil aside and studying the diverse symbols of the Craft, as well as the various works of art created from the depths of man's soul and spirit.

There are essentially two methods whereby man may grow: by observing Nature, or by creating and appreciating art. The true artist patterns his or her work after the laws of Nature, either adopting all that Nature has revealed, or assimilating so much of that which exists in Nature as is necessary to complete the artist's intended design. It is from such designs that mankind learns the place of humanity in the *Magnus Opus* of all artwork – the grand design of the Supreme Architect of the Universe.

The art of deciphering Masonic symbols may be employed to unlock unsuspected wisdom that was quite likely originally possessed by those who lent those symbols to the fraternity. Ancient books with erroneous paginations, as well as a host of secret alphabets used throughout the ages should be included in the deciphering effort. For, subtle methods were often used to conceal divine truths from the uninitiated. By way of specific example, consider the literary works of Shakespeare, which some believe were actually the works of Sir Francis Bacon: that renowned Rosicrucian and Freemason, who is said to have been the legitimate son of Elizabeth I; dedicated to

the charitable workings of the Craft; and in desperate need of "political cover" to avoid detection as the author of such politically inflammatory writings as those found in several of the Shakespearian plays. What is the truth? Can it be ascertained by studying the artwork itself? Is it worth knowing? Answers to those questions may only come to those who take the time to explore the works and decide for themselves.

The symbolism of the *Green Man* also teaches us that growth is experiential, that is, it may only be experienced to fully understand. Such is also so with regard to the "secrets" of Freemasonry. Those "secrets," like understanding what growth means, cannot be revealed even if someone actually chose to sit down and explain them to the entire world. Like death, Freemasonry can only be "experienced," and thus the "secrets" remain hidden from all who choose never to enjoy the experience. That is so with our *Green Man*, for it is from his mouth that vegetation grows and around his head that the resulting busy growth twines. He grows, he experiences and he becomes wise.

What about you?

John Heisner, PM

## CONSOLIDATION NEWS

Brethren, the consolidation committees of both Blackmer Lodge and Crossroads Lodge have worked hard in coming to terms agreeable to both Lodges. The Consolidation Fact sheet was read in open lodge and a motion was made to accept the terms. The motion passed unanimously. The passage of the motion allows the next step to proceed, that of preparing a fact sheet and ballot for each member of each lodge. This has been done and by the time you receive this Bulletin, you should have received your ballot and fact sheet. It is very important that you mark your ballot and return it to the Lodge as soon as possible. A stamped envelope has been provided for this purpose and the address on the back of the ballot will show through the window. IMPORTANT: RETURN YOUR BALLOT.

## TRESTLEBOARD

### Blackmer Lodge

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,

By now, you have all undoubtedly, received letter and text of the resolution and voting ballot and return reply envelope.

According to the California Masonic Code it is duty of every member of the Blackmer Lodge to cast written ballot in matters like this and by such to express their own personal feeling by voting either YES or NO. I have no doubt that you will do that in a timely fashion.

The other day, I had a call from a brother, asking me as to how did all this come about and that Blackmer Lodge is only a few years short of celebrating the Centennial of its existence. Since there might be others with same question I would like to give a short account of events that preceded. By the end of 2006, several officers of the Blackmer Lodge and myself were approached by like from the East San Diego and Crossroads Lodges respectively as to looking into possibility of merging/ consolidating our Lodges. We all looked at the facts: a.) In the last five or so years we all had a few Past Masters in the line of Senior Officers and fairly short and waivy Junior Officers line of newly raised Masons. b.) Blackmer in fairly stable financial position (about \$1500 per member in equity) but renting a space for the Lodge and not really having the roots in the local community (neighboring school, high school, city hall, events hall for local weddings and celebrations) ; c.) East San Diego, with the own building and hall ; d.) Crossroads with somewhat complimentary line of Officers. So at a Stated Meeting I appointed a committee consisting of former and present Officers Coaches, Tiler, Treasurer and Secretary with the duty to explore the facts, talk with like members of those two Lodges and propose the action.

During the process, discussions with the East San Diego Lodge were discontinued and deliberations between the Crossroads Lodge and the Blackmer Lodge

continued. I would like at this time to praise Blackmer Lodge committee members for their dedication and hard work during negotiations and have no doubts that they all had, foremost in their minds, good future for all Masons.

Like everything in life, our actions do have consequences. The way you cast your ballot will determine whether this Lodge will continue to exist as Blackmer Lodge #442 or Amity Lodge #442. Brethren do cast your ballots.

Mihailo Zdravkovic, Master 2007, 2006 and 2003.

Mihailo O'Zdravkovic, Master

## DINING OUT

We will not be having a dine out in July. Enjoy your celebrations on July 4th and remember to wish our wonderful country a VERY happy birthday and say a special prayer for our Country's service men who defend our freedoms. Especially those who are in harms way!

## 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.

## OUTDOOR THIRD DEGREE

Temecula Catalina Island Lodge is having another outdoor Third Degree and Tri-tip BBQ on Saturday, July 21. Open Lodge at 9 am. Advance ticket purchase required - see page 5 for details.

## BIRTHDAYS

James Easterly	7/15
Guy Francesconi	7/20
Robert Hollcraft	7/7
Ezra Johnson	7/29
Donald Lee	7/28
William Nemeč	7/7
James Ogilvie, PM	7/05
Richard Petersen, PM	7/24
Chris Quimpo	7/9
Lowman Sachitano	7/18
F. Walter Savage	7.06
Marlin Schragar	7/5
Justin Seligmann	7/13
David Smith	7/29
James Stewart	7/12
Louis Towne	7/21
Mitchell Wallace	7/09
W. Harold Williams	7/17
Mazin Younan	7/04

Average age = 64.7 years old

Oldest = 90 years old

Youngest = 44 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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Blackmer Lodge

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#442, Free and Accepted Masons, California, USA

## BLACKMER LODGE NO. 442, F&AM

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We want YOU...

To begin receiving your bulletin by email,  
send a note saying "I'm in!" to Coren An-  
drews at ctandrews@ca.rr.com

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- Master ..... zdralemi@sbcglobal.net
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- Senior Warden ..... dell1@nethere.com
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- Junior Warden ..... chrispq@hotmail.com
- CHRIS QUIMPO ..... 858-560-8024
- Treasurer ..... none
- HAROLD WEISS (Audrey) ..... 858-278-7036
- Secretary ..... pote1995@pacbell.net
- ARNOLD KOREY (Marlene) ..... 619-582-1468
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- .....
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- VACANT .....
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- Immediate Past Master ..... zdralemi@sbcglobal.net
- MIKE ZDRAVKOVIC, PM ..... 619-691-9516

### JULY 2007 CALENDAR

#### July

- Mon 2nd Dark
- Thurs 5th **STATED MEETING** at 7:30 p.m. Dinner at 6:30 p.m.  
Reservations must call 619-291-0465.  
**Dress Summer/Hawaiian**
- Mon 9th Proficiency Night and Practice - Third Degree at 6:45 p.m.
- Thurs 12th Practice - Third Degree at 6:45 p.m.
- Mon 16th **THIRD DEGREE - Delmar- 7:00 p.m.**
- Thurs 19th Dark
- Mon 23rd Dark
- Thurs 26th Dark
- Mon 30th Dark

#### August

- Thurs 5th **Stated Meeting** at 7:30 p.m. Dinner at 6:30 p.m.  
Reservations please call 619-291-0465.
- Dark the rest of the Month**

#### JULY STATED MEETING DINNER MENU

- Baron of Beef and BBQ Chicken
- Steamed White Rice and Grilled Mixed Vegetables
- Seafood Pasta Salad and Apple Pie
- Assorted Breads and Beverages



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



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C Jack Liefer Memorial Outdoor 3rd Degree & Tri-Tip Steak Barbeque  
Hosted by Temecula Catalina Island Lodge #524

Saturday, July 21, 2007

Coffee and Pastries for the Early Birds

Open Lodge at 9AM

Barbeque to follow Lodge Closing

Admission \$15 Advance/\$20 at Door includes lunch

## SEATING IS LIMITED

Order your tickets early! Send your check with a self addressed envelope to:  
Tom Hafeli, Secretary  
27895 Diaz Road, Suite G  
Temecula, CA 92590-3480  
email: tom@hafeli.org

## LUNCH

Tri-tip Barbeque Steak  
Baked Beans  
Corn on the Cob  
Fresh Green Salad  
Fresh Rolls and Desert  
Coffee, Iced Tea or Cold Sodas

R. S. V. P. IS A MUST

MAKE YOUR PLANS NOW, SEND FOR YOUR TICKETS TODAY

Name: _____	No. of Tickets @\$15: _____
Lodge: _____	Number: _____
Address: _____	
City, State, Zip: _____	Phone: _____
Make checks payable to Temecula Catalina Island Lodge	

## SYMBOLS OF FREEMASONRY

**Trowel** - Another tool of the operative Masons, the trowel, is an instrument that is used to spread cement or mortar. That cement makes individual bricks or stones stick together, and when it hardens, those individual stone are interconnected to make a strong, united wall or building. In speculative Freemasonry, the trowel is representative of spreading the "cement" of brotherly love and affection, to unite the individual members of a lodge into one, united group of Brethren. When joined together by the ceremonies and practices of Masonry, the individuals will work together to help each other and society as a whole.

An excerpt from *Freemasons for Dummies* by Christopher Hodapp.  
An interesting volume to add to your library.



Our Past Master, John (the Bruce) Heisner, on his recent trip to Scotland for the International Masonic Symposium. (picture taken by Christopher Hodapp, author of *Freemasons for Dummies*)