

# 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

October, 2007

Volume XCIV, Number 10

## MASONS OF THE YEAR HARRY BESNOY AND RODRIGO CUEVAS, PM



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619-291-0465  
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# “WHAT DO YOU MOST DESIRE?”

“...but the Lord shall be unto thee  
an everlasting light...”

Is. 60:19

In each degree of Freemasonry, the candidate is asked what it is that he most desires. The answer is always the same: “light.” Symbolically, the word “light” means knowledge, but in Freemasonry it specifically means knowledge about man’s relationship with God, nature and humanity. Since Freemasonry does not claim to possess all knowledge, it has no secret scrolls to pass along, or hidden codexes to share with new candidates. Instead, Freemasonry gives the candidate the necessary tools whereby he himself can explore the glories of God, nature and humanity for himself.

To assist the candidate in his quest for light, Freemasonry offers yet another symbol from which a spiritual exercise emerges: “darkness.” If one listens carefully to what is said about being brought into the light, one also hears that he is necessarily brought out of darkness. In order that the candidate may better understand what this truly means, consider this thesis: it is essential to *create* light from darkness. That thesis supposes that the light that any person holds is polarized at two poles between which there is only darkness.

Within the domain of human consciousness there actually exist two kinds of darkness. One is more commonly referred to as “ignorance,” while the other is the darkness of higher knowledge. The problems of ignorance are left to the schools to resolve. It is the latter darkness of higher knowledge with which Freemasonry is concerned.

Seldom in history has man suddenly attained higher knowledge of God to such a degree that he is intellectually fine tuned with the Divine. There were several traveling the road to Damascus they day Paul *suddenly* attained divine enlightenment. Yet, none other than Paul were so instantly drawn to the Lord’s bosom. Like most of the rest of us, they, too, likely traveled a slower path toward enlightenment. Freemasonry regards such a slow path as normal and thus provides the very useful tool referred to as the neutralization of binaries to assist the candidate and Mason along the way.

The complexities of that tool may be simplified by clarifying it as a meditative *synthesis* of opposing ideas. That process was illustrated by the use of opposite poles and colors by the German scientist Wilhelm Ostwald in his work entitled *Die Farbenfibel* published in 1916. In his example, Ostwald visualized the north pole as red in color, becoming seven different colors as he reached the equator, then completely black by the time he ended at the south pole. The north pole was called the *white point* while the south pole was referred to as the *black point*.

By analogy, we are able to conceive of the *white point* as representing wisdom and the *black point* ignorance. Wisdom is nothing more than the synthesis of all sciences of human knowledge. Platonism is oriented toward this *white point*, while at the other end of the spectrum the *black point* can be represented by nihilism. The zone wherein the process of synthesis occurs is darkness of higher knowledge, or the realm of spiritual unknowing. Once the process of synthesizing is completed, the darkness is replaced by light, or the realm of spiritual knowing.

It is within that realm that one discovers what Freemasonry refers to as *prudence*. Prudence is the constant awareness of being between two darknesses – the darkness of the *white point*, on the one hand, and the darkness of the *black point* on the other hand. Prudence also teaches us that moving from spiritual unknowing to spiritual knowing is a slow process,

necessarily so to avoid the candidate and Mason from being blinded by too much light at one time. By way of yet another analogy, it is much like learning mathematics in school. Before one can master algebra, one must learn to add and subtract. The initiate is not someone who knows everything. He is a person who bears the truth within a deeper level of his own consciousness that is revealed to him step-by-step.

Prudence never elaborates a system of belief, which is precisely the reason Freemasonry never instructs that one religion is preferable to any other religion. To the contrary, prudence is occupied only with synthesizing particular problems at deeper levels of consciousness. That is why the enlightened Master Mason is often able to offer a dozen different answers to dozens of different questions giving them spontaneously and without much regard or care for mutual agreement. That is so, because the quest for the whole truth begins with the proposition that nobody knows the whole truth. Therefore, there is no knowledge that is off limits to a Mason’s personal scrutiny.

The darkness where synthesis occurs is the region of deeper consciousness, which philosophers have for ages referred to as the “gift of Perfect Night.” From the inner darkness comes the revelations of spiritual truth, which constitute the “gifts of Perfect Night” in all their splendor. It has been also said that the search for those gifts, or the act of synthesizing opposites, is equivalent to the search for peace among nations, among people and among ideas.

Go in peace, my brother, and complete your search. John Heisner, PM

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## 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 SECRETARY

Brethren

I want to thank all of the brethren for their cooperation in the consolidation process that is now nearly concluded. The ballots were counted and though less than 75% yes ballots were received, the members of the Lodge approved the consolidation with more than 50% our Lodge members approving. The necessary documentation has been sent to the Grand Lodge for final approval and the signature of the Grand Master, Most Worshipful Melvyn B. Stein.

When the approval comes back we will start the process of sending out the dues notices for 2008. I ask for you patience as new dues cards have to be ordered and the two lodges' mailing lists have to be merged.

If any member has any question or concern about the consolidation or any other matter, please feel free to call me at the Lodge office or leave a message and I will return you call as soon as possible. I will keep the Brethren up to date on all the changes as they start.

I want to thank the consolidation committee for all their hard work in this process.

Congratulations go out to Brother Harry Besnoy, the Worshipful Master's 2007 selection as Blackmer Lodge's Mason of the Year, who was honored at a dinner and award presentation, by the Grand Master, on August 31. The event was well attended and Brother Harry was gracious in his acceptance of this singular honor.

Additionally, on September 10, we had a large gathering for the dinner to honor Galen Niefenuehr, PM. This event hosted by Blackmer Lodge was attended by many, many Masons, family and friends to honor Worshipful Galen. Included was the Grand Master, who presented Galen with one of his specially minted coins for Galen's Leadership and Dedication to Masonry. He was also presented a plaque from Blackmer Lodge and a copy of all his Masonic Affiliations from Brother Johnny Johnson. Worshipful Mike also offered his congratulations to Galen. It was a wonderful evening.

FRATERNALLY  
ARNOLD L KOREY

# RESERVATIONS REQUIRED

We would be delighted to have you attend our Stated Meeting and Stated Meeting dinner. If you do plan on attending, please make your reservations by calling Arnie Korey at the Lodge office. The number is 619-291-0465. BE COURTEOUS AND MAKE THE CALL.

## CONSOLIDATION NEWS

Ballots have been counted and the results are in. The Brethren of Blackmer Lodge and Crossroads Lodge have by majority vote of the members, approved the proposed consolidation of the two lodges. Because there was not a 75% vote return in the affirmative, the Grand Master must approve the consolidation. The necessary documentation has been forwarded to Grand Lodge. When approved, there are many more steps to accomplish including the election of officers in November and installation in December. From the committee - To all the Brethren who returned ballots, a huge thank you for your time and postage.

## OCTOBER DINE OUT

West Coast Barbecue on TUESDAY, October 2nd for a delicious meal and great conversation. Harry has to give them an idea as to how many people will be dining, so CALL THE LODGE or HARRY so he can prepare the restaurant to set up the tables.

October 2nd (Tuesday)

West Coast Barbecue  
6126 Lake Murray Blvd.  
La Mesa, Ca. 91942  
Tel.# (619) 462-3663

The servings are large enough to satisfy huge appetites and very tasty!

## BIRTHDAYS

Ralph Avalos	10/16
Garrett Boroda	10/30
S. Terry Block	10/08
Robert Booth, Jr.	10/02
William Bradford	10/03
Julian Cambridge	10/19
Fred Chabot, Jr.	10/16
Jeffrey Cronk	10/21
William Evenson	10/22
James Harmon	10/31
Marty Hull	10/26
Mark Kaufman	10/06
Michael Kaufman	10/23
Edward Kotler	10/22
Arthur Lewis	10/14
Fahmi Marini	10/24
Bijan Massrouf	10/19
Ernesto Miller, Jr.	10/17
Schuyler Palmer	10/06
Gary Prodanovich, PM	10/18
Harry Rachman	10/20
Chris Reedy	10/28
James Seeto	10/26
John Townsend	10/09
Paul Warren	10/21
Keith Webb	10/04
Robert Welk	10/11
Wayne Yanda	10/08

Average age = 67.0 years old  
Oldest = 90 years old  
Youngest = 49 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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send a note saying "I'm in!" to Coren  
Andrews at [ctandrews@ca.rr.com](mailto:ctandrews@ca.rr.com)**

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.....	.....
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## OCTOBER 2007 CALENDAR

### October

Mon 1st	Dark
Tues 2nd	<b>DINE OUT NIGHT - WEST COAST BARBEQUE</b> - see article on page 3
Thurs 4th	<b>STATED MEETING</b> at 7:30 p.m. Dinner at 6:30 p.m. Reservations a must call 619-291-0465. Business Casual
Mon 8th	<b>Proficiency Night - 7:00 p.m.</b>
Thurs 11th	<b>Officers' Practice (ThirdDegree) 6:45 p.m.</b>
Mon 15th	<b>Officers' Practice (First Degree) 6:45 p.m.</b>
Thurs 18th	<b>First Degree - 7:00 p.m.</b>
Mon 22nd	<b>Officers' Practice (Third Degree) 6:45 p.m.</b>
Thurs 25th	Dark
Mon 29th	<b>Third Degree - Prodanovich - 7:00 p.m.</b>

### November

Thurs 1st	<b>STATED MEETING</b> at 7:30 p.m. Dinner at 6:30 p.m. Reservations please call 619-291-0465. ELECTIONS
Mon 5th	<b>Proficiency Night - 7:00 p.m.</b>
Thurs 8th	<b>Dining Out - TBA???</b>

### OCTOBER STATED MEETING DINNER MENU

Chicken Kabobs and Mahi Mahi  
Rice Pilaf and Zucchini & Squash  
Spring Mix Salad, Mini Croissants  
Beverages and Iced Brownies



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



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Note: Pictures of the Honor Dinner for Galen Niedenfuehr are pending receipt.