

Blackmer Lodge

Bulletin



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

June, 2004

Volume XCI, Number 6

THE FELLOWCRAFT

*"Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners,
but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household
of God."
Eph. 2:19*

In operative Masonry there were two classes, Masters and Fellows; fellows denoted those less skillful than masters. The term "fellow" in its etymological meaning signifies bound in mutual trust, or a follower, a companion, an associate. In speculative Masonry, Fellowcraft is the Second Degree, and is, like the Entered Apprentice Degree, indicative of preparation for higher degrees. While the First Degree emphasizes through symbolism and allegorical ceremonies the necessity of purifying the heart, the Fellowcraft Degree promotes the cultivation of the reasoning faculties and the improvement of the intellectual powers.

The Fellowcraft is taught that Masonry is a march and a struggle toward the Light, as well for the individual as for the nation. To give a nation the franchise of intellect, or Light, is the only sure manner of perpetuating freedom. It therefore falls to each Fellowcraft, as well as to each Mason of the higher degrees, to learn, to obtain knowledge and to become wise, not to serve one's material interests, but to serve the interest of fraternal freedom. For, if like placing a lamp under a bushel so that the light is concealed, we choose to serve ourselves only with the knowledge we attain, we have performed an ignoble work.

The true Mason is an ardent seeker after knowledge and he knows that both books and the antique symbols of Masonry are vessels which come down to us full-freighted with the intellectual riches of the past; and that in the lading of these argosies is much that sheds light on the meaning of Masonry and proves its claim to be acknowledged as the benefactor of mankind -

born in the very cradle of the race. A Fellowcraft is encouraged to study our ancient symbols and much more. The streams of learning that flow full and broad must be followed to their heads in the springs that well up in the remote past. The history of man, the origin and evolution of his religion and the wisdom imparted by his ever developing philosophy announces an inescapable truth so essential to a free society: God is above all and the Father of all; in the presence of his infinity, human distinctions are infinitely insignificant. Fellowcrafts are encouraged to acknowledge in heart and mind that mankind is suppose to live as a brotherhood of man under the Fatherhood of God.

Certain ancient Masonic writers attribute the ceremonies of the Second Degree to Sir Francis Bacon, some to Sir Isaac Newton. If true, it is easy to understand why our attention is invited to architecture, geometry and astronomy. In each, we learn about symmetry, consistency and of the scientific impact of the heavens upon the Earth. If studied with the purified heart of a properly prepared Entered Apprentice, such Light demonstrates how all consuming is the work of our God; how He forgets none of His children, but affluence of His love embraces all.

Brethren, let not the differences among you erode your love for your fellow human being. The Great Light teaches us that nothing is more noble than to give of one's life for the benefit of another. So mote it be!

May the Supreme Architect of the Universe Bless You,

John Heisner

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FROM THE EAST

This month of June marks the halfway point of my term as your Master. I can truly say that I am surprised at how fast the time has flown. Our Lodge is in sound financial condition at this time. The number of our membership, while declining, is still relatively strong and we anticipate welcoming new initiates in the near term. Masonic ritual is excellently preserved under the sure hand of our Officer's Coach, Coren Andrews. Lodge administration is well attended to by our dedicated Secretary Johnny Johnson. A strong line of devoted and skillful officers is upward moving. We are well and we are here to stay, prepared to pass down to succeeding generations the spiritual and moral benefits of our Ancient Craft.

During the past six months, we have been challenged by the sadness that always follows the loss of brethren and their wives. Illnesses have taken a toll. Wounded spirits have required our attention. Yet, I view those challenges as necessary to the continual building of Blackmer's Masonic character. We have also experienced wonderful times of fellowship and moral growth. Our charity was extended to public school children in the month of April. The brethren of Blackmer joined in with members of Al Bahr Shrine for a social event last month arranged by Bro. Rick Carlson that was attended by approximately 65 Masons, their families and friends. Blackmer has made its presence known to our Masonic community by a visitation to the newly minted Old Glory Lodge. Our Stated Meetings have been marked by excellent Masonic speakers, each of whom has exposed the brethren to much more of what Masonry has to offer. Your officers have grown in Masonic stature and their enthusiasm and support has been demonstrative.

Yet, there is much more we must complete before the next six months fly past. This month Ill. Phil Johnson, Venerable Master of the Scottish Rite for the Valley of Dan Diego will speak at our Stated Meeting. Bro. Phil is a quality Masonic speaker and is knowledgeable about all facets of Masonry's community work and charitable enterprises. We are planning a Blackmer picnic, a Masonic education night, an evening at Petco Park and, God willing, several degree conferrals. We also look forward to meeting an additional challenge - media exposure for Blackmer's fine charitable works. The latter is somewhat daunting, given the past history of the press ignoring Freemasonry, but we will find a way.

I have had an exciting adventure and enthusiastically look forward to completing the journey. To those who have considered serving as Master, I encourage you to do so. You will learn much more about your brethren, your friends, your country and Masonry. It is a opportunity to enhance Masonic character and to enlarge its sphere of influence. Yet, the greatest reward of all is the opportunity to work for the benefit of others. If that is your desire in your Masonic career, join the line and discover the joy of giving.

John Heisner
Worshipful Master

ANNUAL FLAG DAY BREAKFAST

We will gather together to pay our respects to the Flag of our Country and to honor our Masonic Youth Groups on Sunday, June 6, 2004. This will be the 77th Annual Flag Day Observance. The event will be held at the San Diego Scottish Rite Masonic Memorial Center at 1895 Camino del Rio South. Proceeds will be distributed to the Masonic Youth Groups of San Diego and Imperial Counties who are in attendance.

The ceremonies will commence promptly at 9:00 a.m. and is open to all Masons, families and friends. Reservations are required for the buffet breakfast and may be made by calling Dave Haslim at 858-695-8407 or by email at dhaslim@hotmail.com. The featured speaker will be Brother Allen Beddoe, Past Master, who will speak about the aircraft carrier U.S.S. Midway. Be there and don't forget to make your reservations. Tickets may be paid for at the door.

HIRAM AWARD CEREMONY

The Hiram Award Committee, consisting of past Blackmer Hiram Award recipients, has nominated Worshipful Coren Andrews as the 2004 recipient. 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 August 12, 2004. 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 Wor. Andrews illustrious Masonic career, introduce honored guests and past Hiram Award recipients, as well as regale you with discrete stories about Wor. Andrew's travels and journeys throughout his eventful Masonic life.

The date is Thursday, August 12, 2004. 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 Wor. Coren Andrews on what should be a most deserved memorable moment in his Masonic life.

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.



FROM THE SECRETARY

Congratulations to the Worshipful Galen on an exquisite Ladies Luncheon. Worshipful Galen said that this will be the last Ladies Luncheon that he will host, but he will attend them as one of the Brothers.

We will be having a Hiram Award presentation in August, I will keep you posted on the details.

We have the Honor of being presented with a Plaque that was made from the woods of the World. This Plaque was presented to the Lodge by Glenna Luchenbach, for her father Glenn Brannon, who was a member of Blackmer Lodge and he passed away in 1941. Mrs. Luchenbach said that because of her father being a Mason in Blackmer Lodge she was able to become High Priest of Bethel #40.

It is very hard for me to have to tell our brothers that if they do not keep their dues paid up to date and that they are suspended for Non Payment of Dues, that their Children, Grand Children or even their Great Grand Children will not be able to use their name to get into many of the Masonic affiliated organizations the require a Masonic relationship such as Eastern Star or Jobs Daughters. It is much better to pay your dues up to date (consider a life membership). Don't be in a position where you will be suspended, there are alternatives depending upon circumstances to stay in good standing. We do not want to lose you as a Brother and if we can help in any way please give us a call.

If you know of a Brother or his lady that are not feeling in the best of health, please let us know. It is almost impossible to call all of the Brothers to find out if they are OK. Call us at 619-291-0465.

We have had several newsletters returned due to bad addresses. People have moved! Let us know when you are going to move, so we can change your address in our mailing list and lodge roster.
Fraternally, Johnny Johnson, Secretary

Upon checking, the Secretary finds there are several members who have STILL not paid their 2002 dues. Please do so as soon as possible and include the amount of your 2003 dues which are also due.

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.

LODGE MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

San Diego session - July 10,
See Coren for information or on line at www.freemason.org.

ONE DAY CONFERRAL

All Master Masons are invited to attend a demonstration of the proposed one day degree conferral on Saturday, September 11, 2004 from 1-4 p.m. at the San Diego Scottish Rite.

***** ENDOW YOUR LODGE *****

***** GET A LIFE MEMBERSHIP *****

Blackmer Lodge passed a resolution at the Stated Meeting in May to adopt the alternate dues structure. When approved by Grand Lodge, this will result in an increase in dues paid by each member of the Lodge.

Therefore, NOW is the time to get your life membership. Our standing resolution allows a graduated amount depending on the members age. Current dues are \$75.00 per year, while next year it will be \$65.00 PLUS the percapita voted by Grand Lodge in October.

Until October, you may endow the Lodge with your Life Membership at the following rates and never worry about writing that dues check again:

Under 49	21 times annual dues or \$1575
50 to 54 inclusive	19 times annual dues or \$1425
55 to 59 inclusive	17 times annual dues or \$1275
60 to 64 inclusive	14 times annual dues or \$1050
65 and over	11 times annual dues or \$825

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
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
Scott Pearce, PM	6/26
Leonard Starbeck	6/27
Harold Weiss	6/28
Gary Clare	6/29
Alex Bedoya	6/27
Leonard Hegard	6/30

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.

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*Personal Responsibility
 Accept It and Teach It*

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JUNE 2004, CALENDAR

- June**
- Thurs 3rd** **Stated Meeting** at 7:30 p.m. Dinner at 6:30 p.m.
 Reservations please call 619-291-0465.
 Guest Speaker is Ill. Phil Johnson, Venerable Master, Scottish Rite
 - Mon 7th** An Evening with the Master and his Lady Margo at Joe's Crab Shack (wives and friends are welcome)
 - Thurs 10th** Officers' Practice: Degree TBA, 6:30 p.m. (all Officers must attend)
 - Mon 14th** Dark
 - Thurs 17th** Degree or Degree practice (all Officers must attend)
 - Mon 21st** Dark
 - Thurs 24th** Darius, York Rite meeting
 - Sat 26th** Masonic Education - time and location to be announced
 - Mon 28th** **ISI, 574 hosts 442 who will do Second Degree and Long Close and Call down/up, 7:00 p.m.** Officers, call the Inspector if you cannot be there
- July**
- Thurs 1st** **Stated Meeting** at 7:30 p.m. Dinner at 6:30 p.m.
 Reservations please call 619-291-0465.

JUNE STATED MEETING DINNER MENU

- Baron of Beef with Gravy and Baked Mahi Mahi
- Scalloped Potatoes and Green Beans
- Spring Salad Mix and Carrot Cake
- Bread and Beverages