

Blackmer Lodge

Bulletin



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

October, 2004

Volume XCI, Number 10

THE NETWORK, LILY-WORK AND POMEGRANATES

*"A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit,
neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit."
Matt. 7:18*

In the second degree of Masonry, the candidate is instructed about the symbols of network, lily-work and pomegranates as he listens to a lecture. He is told that the network denotes "unity," the lily-work denotes "peace," and the pomegranates from the exuberance of their seeds denotes "plenty." These three symbols are used together, not separately, and consequently seek to interpreted as a whole. And, as Masonry instructs about the building of the spiritual temple, so should these three symbols be considered from a spiritual point of view.

We are taught here and elsewhere that we each have an invisible self, a spirit or soul that constitutes our true existence. When the body falls away and the dust returns to the Earth, as it should, Masons know that our spiritual life continues. It is our responsibility while walking through this vale of tears to nurture that spirit, to look within ourselves and understand the enormous power and innate goodness that dwells deep inside our consciousness. The symbology of unity, peace and plenty is intended to focus our attention on the fruits of such nurturing so that we may, each one of us, carefully assess and gauge our spiritual growth.

By "unity," Masons frequently refer to fraternal love, to the notion that all men are created equal, and to the need to preserve institutions that foster a common brotherhood of man. In addition, the "network" referred to in a lecture teaches that when we look at what is within each one of us and know that the same innate goodness, the same spirit, the same God dwells within, we see our brethren as another self, not as another person. From this seeing springs forth the Golden Rule, which comes so

naturally to the Mason who has learned the lesson taught by the "network.:

By "peace," we often allude to the physical condition of the world. When our nations are not at war slaughtering hundreds of thousands of people we are said to be at "peace." Yet, the "lily-work" teaches the Mason much more than world peace. It teaches him that within where the secret center hosts the divine light, a powerful peace is available. Our intellect serves to instruct our behavior and thus is the seat of our soul. It enables us to choose to be fearful, to be cowardly, to act bravely, and to choose repose and love over revenge. When we choose wisely, the peace within not only calms our mood, it changes our behavior toward others such that we can also declare to our friend and brother, "my peace I give you."

By "plenty," Masons are taught that living consistently "on purpose" with an attitude of giving leads to abundance. As before, we are empowered to choose to either live a life of giving, or one of taking. Freemasonry does not judge your choice, it simply demonstrates by its symbols that there are consequences or truths that follow the choice you make. The Holy Writings instruct that to he who has little, much more will be taken away - that he who has much, to him shall much more be given. It is for you to understand that message. Are you being told to hoard as much as possible, or to be as giving as possible? You decide.

In this regard, there is no unity without peace and plenty. The Mason who concludes that he can be a team-player and contribute to the group in the spirit of unity without seeking and giving peace, and without living "on purpose" as a giving person has sadly missed the true lesson of our lecture.

May the Great Architect Bless You,
John Heisner

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2004 LEGISLATION

GRAND MASTER KIRKPATRICK'S DECISIONS

1. Senior Deacon Qualification

GRAND MASTER KIRKPATRICK'S RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2004-01 Grand Master's Lodge
- 2004-02 Candidate's Fees to Grand Lodge
- 2004-03 Lodge funds and property
- 2004-04 Executive Committee appointments to Constitutional Boards
- 2004-05 Candidate's Contributions to the Masonic Homes, the California Masonic Memorial Temple, and the George Washington Masonic National Memorial

CARRY-OVERS FROM 2003 (GRAND MASTER HOLSINGER'S RECOMMENDATIONS)

1. One Day Conferrals
2. Flexible Dates for Annual Communication

2003 CARRY-OVER RESOLUTIONS

- 03-02 Reduces Stated Meeting quorum from seven to five.

2004 RESOLUTIONS

- 04-01 Re-establishes powers of Hall Associations
- 04-02 Changes time for voting on Grand Lodge Budget
- 04-03 Permits advertising and public relations by Lodges
- 04-04 Requires Flag Salute at all Lodge meetings
- 04-05 Requires Entered Apprentices and Fellowcrafts to pay dues
- 04-06 Withdrawn
- 04-07 Out of Order
- 04-08 Out of Order
- 04-09 Out of Order
- 04-10 Out of Order
- 04-11 Allows California Masons to belong to the Ancient and Heroic Order of the Gordian Knot.

2004 EMERGENT MATTER

- 04-06 Expands persons eligible for admission to the Homes to include members of the general community.

Copies of the legislation are available on the
California Grand Lodge website at

www.freemason.org

Click on Member Resources under the Members Center

Here you will find complete text of all the decisions,
recommendations and resolutions in Acrobat format.

THE AMERICAN'S CREED

I believe in the United States of America as a government of the people, by the people, for the people; whose just powers are derived from the consent of the governed; a democracy in a republic; a sovereign nation of many sovereign states; a perfect union, one and inseparable; established upon those principles of freedom, equality, justice and humanity for which American patriots sacrificed their lives and fortunes.

I therefore believe it is my duty to my country to love it; to support its constitution; to obey its laws; to respect its Flag; and to defend it against all enemies.

Written by William Tyler Page



**SUPPORT YOUR LODGE
AND ITS PROGRAMS.**

**YOUR ATTENDANCE
IS NEEDED AND
ENCOURAGED!**

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 EAST

This month, officers from Blackmer Lodge will attend the Annual Communication at Grand Lodge in San Francisco to consider and vote upon 16 separate pieces of proposed Masonic legislation. A complete recitation of that proposed legislation was handed out to each member who attended our September Stated Meeting. Wor. Coren Andrews provided an excellent summarization of the entire handout. At our October Stated Meeting, the brethren in attendance will be invited to participate in a discussion about those matters and express their respective points of view. In that important matters are under consideration, such as a one-day conferral of Masonic degrees, I encourage everyone to attend so that your voice may be heard and your point of view taken into consideration.

Upon our return from Grand Lodge, we look forward to conferring the First Degree of Masonry on two candidates: David Bing and Matthew Kaufman. Wor. Duane Ely will be qualifying during that ritual for his new position next year as Jr. Warden. Wor. Duane has been working very hard to enable himself to make the evening as memorable as possible for our candidates. Please come to Lodge that evening to support your officers, our new initiates and Freemasonry. You will be pleasantly reminded of the ritual excellence Blackmer has enjoyed for many years. It is also a time to reacquaint yourself with some of the lessons Masonry teaches.

I wish to extend my personal gratitude to each of the Blackmer brethren who participated in last month's Grand Master's Reception and Mason of the Year dinner. Your efforts mightily contributed to making the event a huge success. I also wish to again congratulate Wor. Coren Andrews, this year's Mason of the Year award recipient from Blackmer. He has consistently shown leadership and dedication to the Craft, most specifically to Blackmer Lodge.

John Heisner, WM

FROM THE SECRETARY

Summer is gone and we are getting ready to go to Grand Lodge.

We will be having two First Degrees on October 14th. We will initiate Mr. Alwin David Bing and Mr. Matthew Scott Kaufmann. Please try to attend and welcome these two gentlemen into the family of Masons.

I found Brother Leonard Hegard is not feeling very well, he is in a care center, but you can send cards to him at his home and his wife will make sure that he gets them.

Remember, it is impossible for me to contact every member and find out how he is doing. So, please let us know if you or your lady are ill and if we can help in any way.

We have had several newsletters returned due to bad addresses. You may have moved! Let us know before you are going to move, so we can change your address in our mailing list and lodge roster.

Fraternally, Johnny Johnson, Secretary

MASONIC HOMES ENDOWMENT FUND

The Lodge will accept your contribution to the FUND, when you send your Dues Check. When we receive a contribution, we log it into the report we send to Grand Lodge. When you write a check for The Masonic Homes Endowment Fund, be sure to include FUND after Masonic Homes Endowment. If you don't, your contribution could be deposited in the Homes operating account. Please make your contribution as large as you can.

BIRTHDAYS

| | |
|----------------------|-------|
| Ralph Avalos | 10/16 |
| S. Terry Block | 10/08 |
| Charles Boatman | 10/26 |
| Robert Booth, Jr. | 10/02 |
| Leslie Boring | 10/11 |
| William Bradford | 10/03 |
| Fred Chabot, Jr. | 10/16 |
| Jeffrey Cronk | 10/21 |
| William Evenson | 10/22 |
| David Gibson | 10/10 |
| James Harmon | 10/31 |
| Marty Hull | 10/26 |
| Michael Kaufman | 10/23 |
| Edward Kotler | 10/22 |
| Arthur Lewis | 10/14 |
| David Lewis | 10/05 |
| Bijan Massrouf | 10/19 |
| Robert Melson, Jr. | 10/08 |
| 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 |

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.

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.

PLEASE CHECK YOUR DUES CARD. IT SHOULD SAY "PAID THROUGH DECEMBER, 2004.

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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Personal Responsibility
Accept It and Teach It

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OCTOBER 2004, CALENDAR

October

- Mon 4th** First Degree Practice at 6:30 p.m.
- Thurs 7th** **Stated Meeting** at 7:30 p.m. Dinner at 6:30 p.m.
 Reservations please call 619-291-0465. Worshipful Galen
 Niedenfuher will speak on the history of Blackmer Lodge
- Sun 10th** Grand Lodge Communication
- Mon 11th** Grand Lodge Communication
- Tues 12th** Grand Lodge Communication
- Wed 13th** Grand Lodge Communication
- Thurs 14** **First Degrees for Mr. Bing and Mr. Kaufman, Lodge will
 open at 7:15 p.m.**
- Mon 18th** Lodge Dark
- Thurs 21st** Lodge Dark
- Mon 25th** ISI: 837Host/442Work - Third Degree, Second Section - All
 Officers to attend - call Inspector if unable to attend. 7:00 p.m.
- Thurs 28th** Darius - San Diego Chapter, York Rite Meeting

November

- Mon 1st** **To Be Announced**
- Thurs 4th** **Stated Meeting** at 7:30 p.m. Dinner at 6:30 p.m.
 Reservations please call 619-291-0465.

OCTOBER STATED MEETING DINNER MENU

- Cabbage Rolls and Honey Baked Ham
- Scalloped Potatoes and Mixed Vegetables
- Carrot and Raisin Salad with Rolls
- Black Forest Cake and Beverages