

Blackmer Lodge

Bulletin



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

November, 2004

Volume XCI, Number 11

HISTORY VS. MYTH

*"The sun shall be no more than thy light by day;
neither for brightness shall the moon give light unto
thee'
but the Lord shall be unto thee an everlasting light, and
thy God thy glory."
Is. 60:19*

It has been said that one of the fallacies of conventional scholarship is to insist on a rigorous and artificial distinction between "history" and "myth." According to such a distinction, "history" is regarded as documented fact alone - data which can be subjected to an almost scientific scrutiny, which will stand up to assorted tests and prove thereby that something "actually happened." "Myth," on the other hand, is dismissed as irrelevant or incidental to "history." "Myth" is consigned to the realm of fantasy, to poetry and fiction. Indeed, "myth" is quite often deemed a distortion of "history, a spurious embellishment of falsification of fact. Yet, for the people who originally created what later ages called "myth," there was no such distinction.

Events in the Old Testament - the parting of the Red Sea, for instance, or God conferring on Moses the Tables of the Law - are held by many people today to be "mythic;" but there are many who believe the same events actually occurred. In truth, there is much referred to as "history," as well as "myth" that simply cannot be proven to have occurred. Even the "histories" allegedly recorded by Josephus are littered with inaccuracies, many wrought because they were intended to reflect a specific perspective about the politics and culture of his era. Historians of that era, and throughout later ages simply sought to convey how they saw the events unfolding around them. To that extent, those "histories" are biased and therefore inevitably "falsify" what actually occurred. Take for example more recent events surrounding John F. Kennedy, or even Elvis Presley - "historical" actuality can be discerned among the elements of "myth," but ultimately cannot be separated from them.

Inquirers after Masonic truth have for ages vainly attempted to distinguish between "history"

and "myth" as it applies to the beginnings of the Craft. Some of our most learned Masons of today still try to debunk one author or another because the work is not truly "historical." Yet, in so doing we deprive our minds of a form of light and threaten to leave behind valuable information that may assist us in understanding what Masonry really means to us as individual brothers and to the world. If we are the sum total of erupting upon the world scene in England in the year 1717, how do we account for the rich symbolic stories, legends and "histories" about the Temple of Solomon? Why does our Craft devote entire degrees to Moses? Why do the twelve Israelitish tribes play such a significant role in the organization and conduct of Lodge meetings? Why do we demonstrate a resurrection of the soul in our Lodgeroom work?

"History" has never interviewed the dead to record how they are faring after life on earth, yet Masons earnestly believe in an afterlife. "History" has neglected to record where God came from, what He is doing and why He cares anything at all for humanity, yet Masons express a belief in His existence. In other words, there is much that Freemasonry "knows" to be true for which there is no recorded "history." It may be said to derive from a realm of "myth," but it is informed by the soul of man to be actual. There is much written about our Craft that qualifies as "myth," but it should neither be rejected outright, nor adopted as having actually occurred. All that is written is intended to inspire, to influence the mind and soul and to spark a curiosity for Divine Light. Just as the workmen at the Temple threw away the stone that would prove most valuable, we risk doing likewise when we reject one form of information in favor of another. Trust the spirit within you to discern truth from fiction and do not be afraid to learn the difference.

May the Great Architect Bless You
John Heisner

Contents for November, 2004

Two

*2004 Legislation Results
Installation Notice
Annual Giving Campaign*

Three

*Birthdays
From the East
From the Secretary
Bulletin by Email
Elected Grand Lodge
Officers*

Four

*Blackmer Lodge Officers
Lodge Events Calendar*



contact us
Lodge Office
619-291-0465
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2004 LEGISLATION

GRAND MASTER KIRKPATRICK'S DECISIONS

Passed 1. Senior Deacon Qualification

GRAND MASTER KIRKPATRICK'S RECOMMENDATIONS

Carry-over 2004-01 Grand Master's Lodge

Carry-over 2004-02 Candidate's Fees to Grand Lodge

Failed 2004-03 Lodge funds and property

Failed 2004-04 Executive Committee appointments to Constitutional Boards

Failed 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)

Failed 1. One Day Conferrals

Passed 2. Flexible Dates for Annual Communication

2003 CARRY-OVER RESOLUTIONS

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

2004 RESOLUTIONS

Failed 04-01 Re-establishes powers of Hall Associations

Failed 04-02 Changes time for voting on Grand Lodge Budget

Passed 04-03 Permits advertising and public relations by Lodges

Failed 04-04 Requires Flag Salute at all Lodge meetings

Failed 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

Failed 04-11 Allows California Masons to belong to the Ancient and Heroic Order of the Gordian Knot.

2004 EMERGENT MATTER - resolution to consider **Failed**

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

Copies of the legislation and **results** 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.

ANNUAL INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

THURSDAY
DECEMBER 9, 2004
7:30 PM

COREN ANDREWS, PM³
WORSHIPFUL MASTER-ELECT

2004-2005 Annual Giving Campaign

Whether you visit www.freemason.org or return the pledge card you receive in the mail, this year will be among the most important in memory for our Grand Lodge annual giving campaign. According to Steffani Kizziar, Director of Program Development for the Masonic Homes, "We are seeing an unprecedented number of Masons, wives and widows in need of Masonic relief this year." Masonic Outreach Services (MOS) is a critical way whereby we as Masons support our most needy. For Masons who have never made a gift, this year is a great year to start. Those who have not made gifts in recent memory, please come back to us. We need everyone to join us to be sure no brother Mason, his wife or widow is left behind. Next month we will highlight the new programs of the California Masonic Foundation.

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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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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

The Annual Communication at Grand Lodge concluded with the adoption of new legislation for the Craft. It was my pleasure to be joined by our Sr. and Jr. Wardens, as well as our Secretary, Johnny Johnson. During this month's Stated Meeting, each will explain what transpired and how it affects Blackmer Lodge. Please do not miss this opportunity to learn where Freemasonry is headed and how you can be a part of that journey.

Congratulations to David Bing and Matthew Kaufman, our newly initiated Entered Apprentice Masons. Both new brethren received their first degree conferral on the same evening and those in attendance were witness to the traditionally excellent ritual work by Blackmer's officers. We look forward to mentoring Bros. Bing and Kaufman, to their future degrees in Masonry and to their contributions to Blackmer Lodge.

I wish to also thank our Secretary, Johnny Johnson, for his dedicated hard work throughout the year. Thanks to his efforts, we have finally brought our business into order. Records previously lost have been found, finances have been rounded into shape and the organization of the office is spectacular. Bro. Johnny also serves in other Masonic orders where he is as much a leader there as he is here at Blackmer. A great Secretary makes a Master's job easier, and Bro. Johnny has been no exception to that rule.

Finally, I wish all of the brethren a very happy Thanksgiving. May each of you have the fullness of life with your families and remember to pray earnestly for those in our armed forces who risk their lives daily so that we may enjoy happiness.

John Heisner, WM

FROM THE SECRETARY

Grand Lodge session is over and we are starting to prepare for the coming year. The Installation of 2005 Officers will be on December 09, 2004, time is 7:30 p.m. The Installation will be at our Lodge Room in the Scottish Rite Center.

Your dues notice has been sent out, and this year we have separated the dues and the per capita. Please send your check as soon as you can, so that the envelope is not misplaced.

It is very important that you give us your new address, if and when you are going to move. As soon as you have the new address, let us know so that we can send your newsletter and other literature to your new address without having the Post Office sent it back.

We lost two of our Brothers to the Celestial Lodge above. Brother Lewis Struzik and Brother George Wixen have left the earthly toil. May they rest in eternal peace.

Fraternally, Johnny Johnson



ELECTED GRAND LODGE OFFICERS

David Doan	Grand Master
Frederick Sorsabal	Dep. Grand Master
Melvyn Stein	Sr. Grand Warden
Richard Hopper	Jr. Grand Warden
Warren Blomseth, PGM	Gr. Treasurer
John Cooper	Grand Secretary
Harold Macy	Grand Lecturer

BIRTHDAYS

David Butler	11/23
Dudley Chambers	11/27
Harry Crystal	11/17
Frank Hass	11/02
Gerald Hoege	11/26
Arnold Korey	11/23
William Lingo, Jr. PM	11/23
N. Bert McIntosh, Jr	11/11
Milton Meyers	11/22
Elon Phillips	11/04
George Prout	11/09
James Quinn, Jr.	11/03
Robert Schmidt	11/05
Thomas Swift	11/08
David Vogel	11/19

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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NOVEMBER 2004, CALENDAR

- November**
- Mon 1st** Dining Out Night at Las Parillas, 6:30 p.m. All Masons, wives and guests are invited.
 - Mon 1st** Written Exams due to Inspector from Master and Wardens
 - Thurs 4th** **Stated Meeting** at 7:30 p.m. Dinner at 6:30 p.m. Reservations please call 619-291-0465. Annual Election of Officers
 - Mon 8th** Lodge Dark
 - Thurs 11th** Lodge Dark
 - Mon 15th** Officers' Practice - Second Degree, 6:30 p.m.
 - Thurs 18th** Lodge Dark
 - Mon 22nd** Second Degree, 7:15 p.m.
OR Officers' Practice - Second Degree, 6:30 p.m.
 - Thurs 25th** Happy Thanksgiving - Enjoy family and friends!
 - Mon 29th** ISI: Masters only meet with Inspector
 - Tues 30th** ISI: Wardens only meet with Inspector
- December**
- Thurs 2nd** **Stated Meeting** at 7:30 p.m. Dinner at 6:30 p.m. Reservations please call 619-291-0465.
 - Mon 6th** Installation Practice, 6:30 p.m. for all new Officers and Installing Team
 - Thurs 9th** Annual Installation of Officers - 7:30 p.m. - light refreshments follow ceremony

NOVEMBER STATED MEETING DINNER MENU
 Baron of Beef w/horse radish and Roast Turkey w/cranberry sauce
 Mashed Potatoes and Gravy - Peas and Carrots
 Spring Mix Salad and Pumpkin Pie
 Rolls and Beverages