

Blackmer Lodge

Bulletin



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

December, 2004

Volume XCI, Number 12

THE WINDING STAIRS

*"Therefore thou shalt keep the commandments of the
Lord thy God to walk in His ways, and to fear him."
Deut. 8:6*

Commencing at the porch of the Temple, there was an impressive series of winding steps leading up to the middle chamber. According to Masonic legend, there were fifteen of these steps. In the ritual of the Fellowcraft Degree the Winding Stairs are given important symbolic uses.

To a Mason, the Temple symbolizes the world purified by Shekinah, or Divine presence. In the Entered Apprentice Degree, the candidate passes from darkness and begins his course within the mysteries of the Temple, or in the Divine light of God's presence. In the Fellowcraft Degree he makes progress in his search for light; he is reminded as soon as he passes between the pillars of Strength and Establishment that he must begin the laborious climb upward, step-by-step, toward the goal of the Word, or Divine truth.

Continuous self improvement becomes a solemn duty; perfection is the end sought which he will find at the top of the flight of fifteen steps. These are separated into three series, *three, five, and seven* - indicating adaptation of the course upward to his strength. At these pauses, special instructions are given the Fellowcraft which will aid him in his ascent upward, which can be attained only

through rigid discipline, the cultivation of the nobler virtues, and the practice of righteousness. Intellectual cultivation and growth, a knowledge of the sciences which contribute to the progress of man, and the attainment of true wisdom are urged through symbolic explanations of these steps and by profound instructions.

The seven liberal arts and sciences represent the completion of human learning; the ultimate end of Masonic search beckons on toward the top of the stairway. But, the sublime lesson is that perfect knowledge of the True Word cannot be attained in this life, only a substitute Word will be received; while radiantly symbolized in the life beyond the illuminated Truth he seeks will be given as his reward. Only the substitute Word can be had in the middle chamber, symbolic of this life; one must travel farther and ascend still higher for the final reward.

Such are some of the sublime teachings of the "Winding Stairs." There are many more; can you find them for yourself?

May The Great Architect Bless
You,

John R. Heisner

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contact us

**Lodge Office
619-291-0465**

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619-291-1364

FROM THE SECRETARY

I suppose that most of you are well into preparing for the holiday season. We are getting ready for the Installation of the 2005 Officers for the Lodge. Hope you can come and see it. The Installation is at 7:30 PM on December 9th, at the Scottish Rite Center.

There have been several people who have sent in their dues but have not included the Per Capita. Article IX Section 1 of our By-Laws states: The dues of each member of this Lodge shall be the sum of the dues plus the Per Capita Sum approved by Grand Lodge at the immediately preceding Annual Communication per annum, payable in advance on the first day of January. This was approved and signed by the Grand Lodge.

If you have any questions please call me.

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.

Fraternally, Johnny
Johnson

Blackmer Lodge #442, F. & A. M

cordially invites you to attend the

Ninety-First Annual

Installation of Officers

Scottish Rite Memorial Center

1895 Camino del Rio South

San Diego, California

Thursday, December 9th, 2004

at 7:30 o'clock in the evening

*Open to all Masons, their Families and
Friends*

Coren Andrews, PM^E, 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

We have reached the conclusion of yet another Masonic year and this is my last message to you as your Master. As I reflected upon this message, I remembered a poignant comment made by Wor. Ron Newell when he last addressed the membership during his year as Blackmer's Master: "What we do for ourselves dies with us; what we do for others lives forever." Wor. Ron was reminding the membership of the legend appearing above the entry to the Scottish Rite Center - a message so constant, yet too often ignored.

This past year, Blackmer sponsored an essay contest in a local Middle School and awarded a \$500 scholarship to the winning student. Participants and their families came to dinner on the evening of presentation and witnessed the best Masonry has to offer - giving without any expectation of receiving in kind. A seed was planted among our youth and their parents, to grow in the future for the benefit of all mankind. At each Stated Meeting, we were honored to hear from guest speakers who informed the brethren about our honored fraternity and its many component parts. Our officers visited newly minted Old Glory Lodge and showed our support for those brethren. Blackmer raised one Master Mason and initiated two new Masons. The membership often gathered together for a more social fellowship at our favorite Mexican food location, our traditional pizza parlor, and elsewhere. Wor. Coren Andrews was honored with the Hiram Award, presented in full view of the many youths whom he has served during his Masonic career. Wor. Galen Niedenfuehrer regaled us with the history of Blackmer Lodge and for the last time organized an excellent Honored Ladies Luncheon. At the request of our Inspector, Wor. James R. Reget, Blackmer organized and hosted this year's Grand Master's Reception. Along the way, we compassionated our ill brethren and their families, honored the memory of loving brethren who passed on to the Celestial Lodge above, and reached out to our members in diverse lands when in need. We joined with heart and tongue in thanking our Blackmer

brethren who are in the military service to our country, and prayed for all who have been placed in harm's way that we may live.

It has been the custom at this time of the year to recount disappointments, but I shall not. Though our membership is declining and attendance at our functions and events is not good, I leave with nothing but positive expectations for this Lodge and our ancient and honorable Craft. Those who labor in the vineyards of Blackmer Masonry once again proved themselves to be of the highest caliber. I see nothing but good to come in the years ahead. Masonry is neither dead, nor dying. I found no deep distress among any of the dedicated brethren - only a resolve to keep the fires burning and to re-double our efforts to be the conscience of the world. I am, indeed, grateful to all of you for allowing me the privilege to serve as Master of this venerable Lodge. I look forward to serving you and each succeeding Master to the best of my ability, for "What we do for ourselves dies with us; what we do for others lives forever."

May the Great Architect Bless and Keep You During this Holiest of Seasons.

John R. Heisner, WM



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

Richard Barrett, Jr.	12/04
John Burns	12/27
Leonard Fraitag, PM	12/23
Carl Friedman	12/17
Eugene Goldman, PM	12/16
William Greenman	12/27
Paul Hodiak, PM	12/31
Michael Holibonich	12/17
Johnny Johnson	12/14
David Kahn	12/02
Lowell Lantz	12/15
Donald Lyles	12/12
Richard Markson	12/14
Robert Melson	12/19
Predrag Mitrovich	12/30
Galen Niedenfuehr, PM	12/05
Harold Overstreet	12/04
Leslie Pond	12/26
Bruce Rick	12/30
Byron Rose	12/26
Ralph Siegel	12/18
Darel Southward	12/07
Robert Sumers	12/21
Raymond Tatum, PM	12/04
Paul Young	12/15

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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Non-Profit
 U.S. Postage
PAID
 Permit No. 129
 San Diego, CA

BLACKMER LODGE NO. 442, F&AM
Scottish Rite Center
1895 Camino del Rio South
San Diego, CA 92108
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Freemasonry: Values that Brighten our
 Communities, Share the Light

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DECEMBER 2004, CALENDAR

December

- Thurs 2nd** **Stated Meeting** at 7:30 p.m. Dinner at 6:30 p.m.
 Reservations please call 619-291-0465. Annual Election of Officers
- Mon 6th** Installation Practice, all Officers and Installing Team, 6:30 p.m.
- Thurs 9th** Annual Installation of Officers at 7:30 p.m.
- Mon 13th** Lodge Dark
- Thurs 16th** Lodge Dark
- Mon 20th** ISI, 35 hosts all Officers who will work at Stated Meeting, escort, motions, introductions and short close. 7:00 p.m. Call Inspector if you cannot attend. All officers.
- Thurs 23rd** Lodge Dark
- Sat 25th** Christmas
- Mon 27th** Lodge Dark
- Thurs 30th** Lodge Dark

January

- Mon 3rd** Lodge Dark
- Thurs 6th** **Stated Meeting** at 7:30 p.m. Dinner at 6:30 p.m.
 Reservations please call 619-291-0465.
- Mon 10th** Officers' Meeting/Practice, 6:30 p.m.

DECEMBER STATED MEETING DINNER MENU

- Roast Tri_Tip Beef and Homey Baked Ham
- Mashed Potatoes and Mixed Vegetables
- Caesar Salad and Cobbler
- Rolls and Beverages

