



Trestleboard

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

April, 2006

Volume XCIII, Number 4

THE NORTH IS TERMED A PLACE OF DARKNESS

*"But, the Lord liveth, which brought it and which led the
seed of the house of Israel out of the north country..."*
Jer. 23:8

Candidates are instructed in the Entered Apprentice Degree that the three lights of Freemasonry are situated in the east, west and south of the lodge room. According to Masonic legend, there is none in the north, because King Solomon's Temple was situated in such a manner that neither the Sun, nor moon, at meridian height, could bring light into the Temple from the north. Therefore, the candidate is informed that among Masons, the north is always termed a place of darkness.

As with other Masonic symbols, this, too, invites meditation upon the questions about light and darkness, good and evil. Here, our contemplation is focused upon a new consideration about these opposites. The candidate is not told that King Solomon's Temple was situated in a particular location to serve as a geography lesson. Rather, he is so informed, because the Holy Writings symbolize the north as the direction from which evil flows.

Should you continue to read further in the Book of Jeremiah, you will curiously learn that the prophet indicated that all matters of wickedness from adultery to the worship of false gods flowed from the north. It is not likely that Jeremiah was being literal with these words. To the contrary, it is quite likely he intended to communicate a very valuable spiritual lesson that is also revealed in The Bahir, one of the oldest, most important, and most carefully preserved of all ancient Kabbalah texts.

The Ineffable Name is said to be pronounced, "Yod, He, Vav, He." According to ancient Hebrew theology, the Name, if understood, conveys the complete meaning of existence and God. Among other esoteric considerations, a thorough study of the Ineffable Name necessarily opens the door to a deep review of the concept of Zer Anpin, which theologically consist of six different directions represented by the "Vav." Far too simply stated, what is meant is that the pursuit of wisdom is closer to the pursuit of God than is the worldly pursuit of establishing kings and kingdoms.

More fundamentally, Zer Anpin represents the essence of the fact that many possible futures arise from man's exercise of free will. We can choose to be hateful, angry, sullen, hostile and unfriendly. In so doing we have also assured ourselves of a very specific future: a life full of spite, revenge and conflict. On the other hand, man can select kindness, compassion, faith, hope and charity as his characteristics. The difference in the future is like the difference between night and day, light and darkness.

Radiance, or the vertical connection to supernal divinity is symbolized in Freemasonry, as well as in most ancient religions, by the Sun, moon and Mercury (note the similarity between this array and that told the candidate about the Sun, moon and Master of the Lodge) traveling a path from east to west. Neither of those bodies

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contact us

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FROM THE SECRETARY

This is the time of the year when everybody is busy getting their taxes ready for Uncle Sam, Good Luck

There are still several Brothers that have not paid their 2006 dues. Brethren take a few moments and send in your dues so that you are in good standing.

We had a very enjoyable night out at the Great Moon Restaurant in PB if you were not there you missed a fun time.

Our next dine out will be on April 03, 2006. check in this Trestleboard for the time and location.

If you know of a Brother or his Lady that is not feeling up to par please give the Chaplain or me a call.

It is very important that you make reservations for our Stated Meeting Dinners. Either call the Lodge at 619-291-0465 or call me at home 619-239-1900

Fraternally, Johnny Johnson, Secretary



If you shop at Albertsons and would like to help a Masonic Youth Group, contact Coren Andrews at ctandrews@comcast.net for details. It doesn't cost you a thing and is as easy as handing the clerk your regular Albertsons card.

FROM THE EAST

The Southern California Research Lodge published an article "The Struggle For Freedom" by Milton E. Ammann, P.M., out of which I would like to bring you some interesting excerpts. It has often been pointed out that America has a heritage of freedom which is unequalled in the world. Our nation is the undisputed leader of the free world, and stands for the dignity of man. We need to remind ourselves constantly of the strong belief of individual liberty which prompted our forefathers to declare themselves free of England, to fight for their independence, and to place in our Constitution the Bill of Rights. Had it not been for Benjamin Franklin, Samuel Adams, and his correspondence committee, Paul Revere, Thomas Jefferson, and others, many of whom were Masons, it is anyone's guess as to what type of government we might have in our country today. These great patriots suffered hardships and many lost, not only their lives, but everything they owned and loved because they believed in the dignity of man.

Have you ever wondered what happened to the signers of the Declaration of Independence? These men stated in the Declaration of Independence, "we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor." Twenty four of the signers were lawyers and jurists. Eleven were merchants. Nine were farmers and wealthy plantation owners. They were men of means and well educated, but they signed the Declaration of Independence knowing full well that the penalty would be death if they were captured by the British. What happened to them? Five signers were captured by the British as traitors and were tortured before they died. Twenty had their homes ransacked and burned. Nine of the fifty-six fought and died from their wounds or the hardships of the war. Carter Braxton of Virginia, a wealthy trader and planter, saw his ships swept from the seas by the British Navy. He sold his home to pay his debts, and died bankrupt. Thomas McKean was so hounded by the British that he was forced to constantly move his family, and keep in hiding. His possessions were taken from him, and he was reduced to poverty. British soldiers, vandals, or both looted the properties of Ellery, Clymer, Hall, Walton, Gwinnett, Heyward, Rutledge and Middleton.

Phillip Livingston signed the Declaration and never saw his home again. The

British used it as a naval hospital. He died while serving in Congress in 1778. After Judge Richard Stockton signed, he inspected General Washington's army, then returned to his home to rescue his family. An informer betrayed their hiding place, and the judge was imprisoned, and later paroled. He returned to his home to find that his furniture, clothing and library had been destroyed, and the family's silver stolen. Stockton died a pauper before the revolution was won.

At the battle of Yorktown, Thomas Nelson, Jr. noted that the British General Cornwallis, had taken over the Nelson home for his headquarters. Nelson quietly urged General Washington to open fire, which was done. The home was destroyed and Nelson died bankrupt. Francis Lewis had his home and property destroyed. The British jailed his wife, and she died within a few months. John Hart was driven from his wife's bedside as she was dying. Their thirteen children fled for their lives. His fields and grist mill were destroyed. For more than a year, he lived in forests and caves, returning home after the war to find his wife dead, and his children vanished. A few weeks later he died from exhaustion. Morris and Livingston had suffered similar fates.

Such are the stories and sacrifices of the American Revolution. These were not wild-eyed ruffians. They were soft-spoken men of means. They had security, but they valued liberty more.

Mihailo O'Zdravkovic, Master 2006

Blackmer Lodge Trestleboard

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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Printing: PIP Printing 619-528-8000
Distribution: Galen Niedenfuehr
Contributors: Every now and then!

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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 350 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.



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The North...

travels north to south, although during the vernal equinox, the east to west path necessarily touches distinctly upon the southern hemisphere. The spirit of divinity that is thought by many to dwell within every man is said to be strengthened by exposure to the "radiance." Forces associated with the north are said to flow from the material world only and thereby incite worldly desires for such non-spiritual things as fame, wealth and power.

May it always be so that the north is termed a place of darkness among Masons. Freemasonry seeks to instill faith, hope and charity. Masons live compassionate lives. The members of a lodge constitute a brotherhood of man under the fatherhood of God. Freemasonry seeks not to give a man a futile future, one devoid of love, peace and harmony. Wholly to the contrary, the Order seeks to instill this great commandment: love God with all of your heart and soul, and love your neighbor as you love yourself.

May the Supreme Architect Bless You,
John R. Heisner, P.M.

2006 HIRAM AWARD

Thursday
April 27th
Dinner at 6:30
Honoring Brother
Harold Weiss
2006
Award Recipient

MEXICAN DINING OUT

We shall revisit a dining out location that many of the Brethren and families have enjoyed in the past. Las Parrillas Mexican Restaurant. Located just off the freeway in El Cajon, there is plenty of parking and great food. The address is 555 Montrose Court, El Cajon, just off Madison Avenue. (phone 619-444-3955). The time will be 6:30 p.m. on April 3, 2006. Harry knows you want to be there. Let us all spend the evening together and enjoy good friends, good food and good conversation. Call Harry if you have any questions or need additional information.



HONORED LADIES LUNCHEON

NOON
Thursday, May 25, 2006
A superb menu has been planned
and guaranteed to favor your taste
buds.
Call in reservations
619-291-0465

**SUPPORT YOUR LODGE AND
ITS PROGRAMS.**

**YOUR
ATTENDANCE IS NEEDED
AND ENCOURAGED!**

BIRTHDAYS

Ernest Addleson	4/06
Harold Arnhart	4/28
Harry Besnoy	4/26
Giles Brown	4/21
Richard Carlson	4/28
Terry Christian	4/22
Charles Ellis	4/10
Clyde Fry	4/23
Chad Green	4/17
Herbert Harnly	4/20
Albert Heck	4/12
Richard Jones	4/26
Sean Keller	4/21
Julius Krasner	4/14
Samuel Krasner, PM	4/20
Solomon Minsberg	4/25
Robert Ross	4/17
Lamberto Vales	4/16
Dan Underwood	4/08
R. Michael Walters	4/15
Warren E. Wilsie	4/09

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, 2006."

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
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United We Stand, Together we can
Make a Difference,
The Family of Freemasonry

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APRIL 2006 CALENDAR

April

Mon 3rd **DINE OUT NIGHT of the year at Las Parrillas in El Cajon (see article), 6:30 p.m.**
Thurs 6th **Stated Meeting** at 7:30 p.m. Dinner at 6:30 p.m.
Reservations please call 619-291-0465. **Business Casual**
Mon 10th **Third Degree Proficiency for Brothers Kaufman and Athy, 7:15 p.m.**
Thurs 13th Dark
Mon 17th Officers' Practice, Second Degree, 6:45 p.m.
Thurs 20th Officers' Practice, First Degree, 6:45 p.m.
Mon 24th Inspector's School of Instruction - 35 works - Second Degree, first section, middle chamber and letter G, 837 Hosts, 7:00 p.m. - All officers to attend unless excused by the Inspector, call him at 619-461-5724
Thurs 27th **Hiram Award Dinner** at 6:30 p.m. Honoring **Brother Harold Weiss**.

May

Mon 1st **DINE OUT NIGHT - Location to be determined, 6:30 p.m.**
Thurs 4th **Stated Meeting** at 7:30 p.m. Dinner at 6:30 p.m.
Reservations please call 619-291-0465.

APRIL STATED MEETING DINNER MENU

Chicken Fettucine with Alfredo Sauce and Honey Baked Ham
Mashed Potatoes and Gravy
Baby Carrots and Fresh Fruit Cups
Cherry Cobbler
Beverages and rolls



Call your reservations to Johnny at 619-291-0465

