



Trestleboard

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

May, 2006

Volume XCIII, Number 5

THE TROWEL

*"Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for
brethren to dwell together in unity."*

Ps. 133:1

The trowel is the symbol of that which has the power to bind men together. What is this unifying power? We very frequently meet with men who seem to lack unity in their makeup; a spirit of disorganization or anarchy is at work in them so that they seem to live at cross-purposes with themselves. What they know they should do they do not, and many things which they do they do against their own will. They may have personal force, but it is scattered and their lives never come into focus.

Of these men we say that they lack character. Character comes from the word that originally meant a graving tool; after long use the name of the tool came to be applied to the engraving itself, and thus the term has come to stand for a man whose actions give one an impression of definiteness and clear-cuttedness, like an engraving. The trowel is intended to remind us of that true character, the essential ingredient necessary for one man to properly bond with another.

Francis Bacon so thoroughly exemplified the spirit of fraternalism, that is of men bonding together to perform works of great charity, that his memory is largely associated with the Fellowcraft Degree. Bacon was at various times in his life Lord Chancellor of England, a philosopher, an author, a statesman, scientist, orator and humorist. He was one of the prophets of the scientific revolution and instigated the formation of the Royal Society. Bro. Bacon edited the first King James version of the Holy Bible and is thought by many to actually have authored several works attributed to Shakespeare.

Bacon secretly founded the first Lodge of Free & Accepted Masons in England. He wrote the second degree ritual, which by his creation

emphasized the liberal arts and sciences. In addition, he founded the first Rosicrucian Brotherhood and secretly laid the groundwork for the eventual establishment of the United States of America. Using Masonic symbolism, Bacon wrote the New Atlantis, which many contend contains the keys to all Masonic ritual.

Bacon's example, so essential to the true symbolism of the Trowel, was that of a Master Mason building for the future. In building for the future, one must instill in others the vital essence of one's own purpose. Bacon's dreams were realizable because the early Freemasons embraced his vision and purpose. His dreams were the cement that bound the brotherhood to the process of regeneration, that is, to everlasting renewal.

That philosophy is embodied in the three degrees of Freemasonry. From grade to grade, the candidate is led from an old to an entirely new quality of life. The candidate begins his Masonic life as the natural man and ends it by becoming a regenerated "perfected" man. He symbolically rises from the dead a Master, a just man made perfect, with larger consciousness and faculties, an efficient instrument for use by the Great Architect in His plan of rebuilding the Temple of fallen humanity, and capable of advancing other men to a participation in the same great work.

Thus, the Trowel also teaches us that the real purpose of modern Freemasonry is, not the social and charitable purposes to which so much appropriate attention is paid, but the expediting of the spiritual evolution of those who aspire to perfect their own nature and transform it into a more god-like quality. The challenge of Freemasonry is to be reborn "incorruptible" which must be preceded by the death of the lower nature. Consequently, the intention of Masonry is not the building of a temple, but the greater science of soul building using the cement of brotherly love and affection.

May the Great Architect of the Universe
Bless You

John R. Heisner, PM

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contact us

Lodge Office
619-291-0465

FAX

619-291-1364

FROM THE SECRETARY

Congratulations to our newest Hiram Award Recipient, Brother Harold Weiss.

May 25th is Blackmer Lodges Honored Ladies Lunch. Please make your reservations as soon as possible.

There are several members that have not paid their 2006 dues. If your dues card does not read "December 31, 2006" you are in arrears. Take a few moments and mail in your dues.

We will be having a First Degree for Alexander Royter in the very near future.

We are honored to have our long time Brother Stanford Brust back with us, Stan has affiliated with Blackmer after a long absence.. Welcome back Stan

It is very important that you notify the Lodge if you have a change in status such as Moving, New Phone etc. Please notify the Lodge via phone or email.

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

An article, written by R. A. Herbold, about the Wisdom and Thinking of J. Robinson author of "Born in Blood", "Pilgrim's Path" and other works, caught my attention and I am pleased to bring part of it for your perusal.

"The biggest contribution of Freemasonry, in my mind, is the concept of freedom of religion. We should not get the idea that all religions believe in freedom of religion. If you look at it from their standpoint, if you think you are right, and you know what God wants, then God wouldn't want you to tolerate somebody else who's wrong. We've had experiments with countries that tried to have democracy and a state religion at the same time and it never works. If a country is dominated by a church, you don't have freedom of religion. Without freedom of religion you can't have freedom of speech, without freedom of speech, you can't have human rights. I do not believe, for an example, that the fundamentalists believe in freedom of religion. Their militant elements think everybody should do what they are doing and listen to them. God is telling me what he wants me to do, that kind of thing. I say that for this reason. At the time the Constitution and Bill of Rights were drafted, there was no role model on the face of the earth for a country that did not have a state religion. There wasn't one. You may ask Where did they turn for this idea? What was the inspiration for this? The thirteen colonies did not have a freedom of religion or freedom from state religion. Connecticut was Congregational, Massachusetts was Puritan, Pennsylvania was Quaker, Virginia was Church of England. The laws of Virginia said that any minister other than the Church of England who dared to preach a sermon to his followers was to be publicly whipped. Baptist and Methodist ministers were hauled into the public square on the Sabbath days, stripped to

the waist and whipped for breaking the law in preaching a sermon or leading a group in prayer. That's what drove the Baptists and Methodists out of Virginia into the southeastern wilderness which is why they are so heavily populated in that area.

So, if these men decide to form the first national government with freedom of religion you've got to ask yourself, where in the world this idea come from, that a country would allow any man to worship God in the way he saw fit.

And you look at the group of people who had nothing in common socially, or financially, or even geographically; Paul Revere was a silver craftsman, John Paul Jones was a Scottish seaman, John Hancock was a merchant, Washington was a wealthy planter and Franklin was a printer. The common bond that all those men had was their Freemasonry. And the only source of a philosophy that said that every man has the right to worship God in his own way was in their Masonic brotherhood. I believe that Freemasonry was the inspiration for the concept of freedom of religion, without which democracy is not possible."

Mihailo O'Zdravkovic, Master, 2006

Blackmer Lodge

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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 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.



BIRTHDAYS

| | |
|------------------------|------|
| Coren Andrews, PM | 5/12 |
| Robert Balingier | 5/26 |
| Martin Bert | 5/18 |
| Joe Brennan | 5/05 |
| William Brown | 5/25 |
| Shaun Case | 5/20 |
| Benjamin Grossman | 5/26 |
| John Heisner, PM | 5/11 |
| Ellsworth Henderson | 5/21 |
| Ronald Krasner | 5/09 |
| Ronald Newell, PM | 5/18 |
| Daniel Ober, Sr. | 5/14 |
| Madison Rogers, PM | 5/06 |
| Donald Wenzel | 5/08 |
| W. Shannon Williams | 5/19 |
| Mihailo Zdravkovic, PM | 5/13 |

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.



HONORED LADIES LUNCHEON

MAY 25, 2006

NOON

SCOTTISH RITE
CENTER

CALL JOHNNY JOHNSON
619-239-1900

OR

619-291-0465

SUPPORT YOUR LODGE AND ITS PROGRAMS.

**YOUR ATTENDANCE IS NEEDED
AND ENCOURAGED!**

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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BLACKMER LODGE NO. 442, F&AM
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United We Stand, Together we can
Make a Difference,
The Family of Freemasonry

BLACKMER LODGE OFFICERS

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|--|--------------------------------|
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MAY 2006 CALENDAR

| | | |
|--------------|-------------|---|
| May | | |
| Mon | 1st | DINE OUT NIGHT at Secuyan Indian Reservation (directions in article, 6:30 p.m.) |
| Thurs | 4th | Stated Meeting at 7:30 p.m. Dinner at 6:30 p.m. Reservations must call 619-291-0465. Business Casual |
| Mon | 8th | Dark |
| Wed | 10th | Masonic Information Night at Scottish Rite, 6:30 p.m. Reservations required by May 5, call 619-293-4888 |
| Thurs | 11th | Dark |
| Sat | 13th | Scottish Rite Degree Conferral, 8:00 a.m. |
| Mon | 15th | Officers' Practice, First Degree, 6:45 p.m. |
| Tues | 16th | Dinner and Service Award Presentation to Worshipful Brother, Julian Cambridge, Square and Compass Room, 6:15 p.m., Call for reservations. |
| Thurs | 18th | First Degree - Tentative - Mr. Royter, 7:15 p.m. |
| Mon | 22nd | Inspector's School of Instruction - 442 works - Third Degree, first section, 35 Hosts, 7:00 p.m. - All officers to attend unless excused by the Inspector, call him at 619-461-5724 |
| Thurs | 25th | HONORED LADIES LUNCHEON at NOON. At Scottish Rite, all Honored Ladies, Brethren and Friends are invited. |
| Mon | 29th | Memorial Day - Remember and be safe! |
| June | | |
| Thurs | 1st | Stated Meeting at 7:30 p.m. Dinner at 6:30 p.m. Reservations please call 619-291-0465. |

MAY STATED MEETING DINNER MENU

Roast Turkey with Cranberry and Lasagne
Scalloped Potatoes and Green Beans Almandine
Caesar Salad and Apple Crumb Cake
Beverages and rolls



You must call your reservations to Johnny at 619-291-0465

