



Trestleboard

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

November, 2006

Volume XCIII, Number 11

A PASSAGE OF SCRIPTURE

*"And I tell you, ask and you will receive,
seek and you will find, knock and the door
will be opened unto you."*

Luke 11:9

During the ritual of the Entered Apprentice Degree, the candidate's attention is directed to the above-referenced passage of scripture, which he is told is applicable to his personal situation at the time of his initiation. A man must ask to be made a Mason; he will never receive a specific invitation to become a member. Before entering a Masonic lodge, the candidate is required to knock at the entrance. Once appropriate identifying words are exchanged, the candidate is allowed to enter and commence his pursuit of the beauties of Freemasonry.

Although Freemasonry does not teach what a Mason ought to believe concerning God, man and nature, it does teach him how to ask, seek and knock in order to arrive at that which one seeks to know about God, man and nature. It is after one has received, found and gained access to what was to him previously unknown that he knows. The aptitude for "knowing how to know" is a trait essential for every Freemason, without which the pursuit of truth may lead down an endless chain of blind alleys.

That aptitude is characterized by certain spiritual exercises which should be consistently practiced if one is to ever succeed in knowing about God, man and nature. Common spiritual exercises form the link which unites Freemasons. It is not common knowledge which unites them, but the similarity in each Mason's experiences during his pursuit of God, man and nature. If three

people from different countries were to meet each other, having made the book of Genesis, the Gospel of St. John, and the vision of Ezekiel the subject of spiritual exercises for many years, they would do so in brotherhood, although the one would know the history of humanity, the other would have the science of healing and the third would make a profound Kabbalist.

That which one knows is the result of personal experience and orientation, while depth, or consciousness is what one brother Mason holds in common with another brother Mason. The aim of spiritual exercise is depth; to plunge into the most profound aspects of the Holy Writings, to breathe their air, to participate as an eye witness and to admire the beauty of the layers of thought. The Essenes participated in spiritual exercises that explored both the exoteric and the esoteric interpretations of ancient scripture. In so doing, they plumbed the depths of the Zohar making such use of it that the words came alive; symbolism became reality; and, that which had been previously hidden from mankind's view was made visible to all who observed the conduct of the practitioners.

The questions posed are what should we ask? How should we seek? Where shall we knock? The most important response is to identify our ideal; our purpose. It has been posited that all reality is merely that which has been subjectively created by our minds. Yet, there is something terribly disorienting about the idea that all our experience is subjective. If all we experience is simply a reflection of ourselves, then what do we have to hold on to? If expectations are merely self-fulfilling

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contact us
Lodge Office
619-291-0465
FAX
619-291-1364

FROM THE SECRETARY

November is the month that we have our election of Officers for the ensuing year, so please try to make it to the Stated Meeting on the 02nd of November.

The dues notices have been sent out and we are getting a good response from the Brethren.

It is with sadness that I report one of our Honored Ladies passed away. Gladys Brown the Widow of J. Paul Brown passed away on October 06, 2006. May she rest in eternal peace.

Congratulations goes to our newest Master Mason. Larry Stanley Gertser was raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason on October 19th.

We have several new applicants that will be getting their degrees in the near future, so watch the Trestleboard for the dates and time. It is very important that we have a good turn out for these degrees to show our new Brothers support.

Please make your reservations for dinner before October 29th, so that we know how many to order dinners for.

If you have moved or are about to move it is very important that you send or call in your new address and phone number. It costs the Lodge money every time that the Post Office has to forward your mail.

Ed Kotler has had bypass surgery and is back home. I had a long talk with him, he is very weak and his recovery is going to be long. He needs our Prayers and take a few moments and send him a card at Ed Kotler 1816 Hidden Palm Ct. El Cajon, CA 92019-3636

Fraternally, Johnny Johnson, Secretary

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prophesies, if reality is our own creation, then are we not caught in a vicious circle of our own selves? Before we begin answering the question what should we ask, we must decide what we want.

The Holy Writings instruct us that if we wish peace to prevail, we must act peaceably. If we desire love in the world, we must love our neighbor. If we demand that the needs of the people must be met, we must be generous in our own dealings with our fellow man. The lessons we are taught reveal how we think about God, man and nature and dictates whether or not mankind will be benefited, or despised. Do you wish to ask for yourself, or for your brother? Do you desire to feed your passions, or to serve mankind? One request is answered by God; the other is left unanswered. Can you discern why that happens?

Several writers of the ever popular self-improvement books tell us that we only need visualize that which we truly want and it will come to us. Highly competitive professional athletes hire psychiatrists and psychologists to help them properly focus upon their goals. Jesus is reputed to have taught that it is useless to look without for the kingdom of heaven, for it is found within each person. The Holy Writings relate stories about people who could move mountains because of the faith they exercised. Everywhere one looks today, the concept of "mind-over-matter" thrives.

The spiritual exercises Freemasons are taught are fundamentally structured to achieve one objective: the brotherhood of man. Homes for the poor and desperate are a reality because over the years, men committed to the welfare of others visualized such a charity, raised money to support it and hired capable men to build the facilities. Educational endowments that are now so common place in the fraternity began as an idea; a thought that some one person, or several people had together. Speech therapy centers, eye foundations and hospitals for crippled children that now abound throughout the world all began with an idea that led to action which resulted in the providing of valuable services to other less fortunate people. The foundation for such thought was the overwhelming sense of brotherly love and affection by one human being for another.

When we ask, do we ask properly? If that which gently courses through the mind is the thought of how best to serve our fellow man, the spiritual exercise has been successful and we can correctly expect to receive. When

we seek, of what are we in search? A mind that concentrates on God and His agape love desires nothing greater than to know it's Creator and thus to imitate Him. When we knock, to what place are we seeking admission? Entry into a world of practical sense enables us to prudently put into action that which the mind has conceived, which clarifies more completely the Masonic phrase, "...wisdom to contrive."

A Freemason's engagement in Masonic spiritual exercises is also aided by his sense of synthesis; the sense of orientation and acquisition of knowledge of essential facts in every domain. While the metaphysical sense operates within a realm referred to as the "concept of God," the Freemason's sense is oriented toward the "living God" – the spiritual, concrete fact of God. Our Creator is not an abstract concept; it is not a notion, but rather a true sense of being. We do not ask of a concept; we ask of a living God. We do not seek a notion; we pursue a living Creator. And, we do not knock at the door of an abstract thought; we seek entry to a place where real wisdom may be attained.

It is a horrible tragedy for a soul to seek always and everywhere that which is concrete. Man was intended not to devote himself to absolutes, because he is not God. Rather, man is intended to absorb all there is to absorb and then to ask God to assist us all in pursuing the many paths of truth that He has prepared for us.

May the Great Architect of the Universe Bless You,

John R. Heisner, PM

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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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.



FREE STATED MEETING DINNERS

How would you like to win the door prize at our November Stated Meeting? Here's what you must do!

- 1) Be a member of Blackmer Lodge in good standing. Blackmer Lodge officers are ineligible.
- 2) Attend the November Stated meeting.
- 3) Be present when the door prize ticket is drawn at the close of the stated meeting.

What is the door prize? Thought you'd never ask! Five (5) FREE Stated Meeting dinners to the winner.

You can't win if your not there, so, we are looking forward to seeing you win.

ELECTIONS TO BE HELD

The annual election of officers for your Lodge will be held at the Stated Meeting on November 2nd. Put this important date on your calendars and plan on attending. We hope to have a very strong corps of officers next year lead by some hard working and dedicated Brothers. We will learn who they are and be there to congratulate them. The next step will be to support them at the Installation of Officers on the second Thursday in December.

THANK YOUS

The Members of Blackmer Lodge offer their appreciation and thank you for the dedication and donations of several of our Brothers who generously made donations to enable us to obtain a new copier/printer/scanner for our Lodge Office.

Worshipfuls Coren and Galen continue to offer their thank yous to all those who so cheerfully and graciously save their can tabs and receipts for these ongoing projects.

2006 LEGISLATION

The results of the 2006 Grand Lodge Legislation find that these items affirmed or passed:

- Grand Master's Decisions 1 and 2
- Grand Master's Recommendations 2,3,4,5,6
- Carry Over Recommendations 2

2006 Resolutions 2,4,7

There were several carry-over items. Recommendation 1 and Resolutions 3,5,9

Complete details on **PAGE 5**

FROM THE EAST

Brethren,

I write this for those of you who for umpteenth, very good, valid reasons could not get your respected selves into the your Blackmer Lodge on Thursday October 19th at about 7 P.M. to participate, in some small way at least, in the ceremonies of the Third Degree for brother Larry Gertser. The Watts room was bubbling and overflowing with congratulations, laughter and stories afterwards when we were munching on excellent delicacies so timely provided by our Junior Warden. We would have stayed longer but after 10.30, maintenance and others were tapping their feet waiting on us to finally leave. The evening will remain in the memory of all the brethren present as one of the finest Third Degrees witnessed and participated in. Everyone was masterful and comfortable in the role they portrayed; difficult to single out, impossible to determine the best out of great ones. It wouldn't be right for me to do that. My heartfelt thanks to all participants for the job well done, and hope and a reminder to brethren not present to look and make an entry in their calendar for the next Lodge event. We will have one each of the First and Second Degrees in November. See you all there.

Micheal O'Zdravkovic, Master

BULLETIN BY EMAIL

WE WANT YOU to get your Bulletin by email. It comes as a PDF file and can be read on your screen or printed for leisurely reading. A growing number of your fellow members are taking advantage of this opportunity. Why not you? To join in, just drop an Email note to the editor, Coren Andrews at ctandrews@ca.rr.com to begin receiving your Bulletin in an Email.

Be on the cutting edge and get **PAGE 5** as a bonus! Contact Coren Andrews at ctandrews@ca.rr.com.

BIRTHDAYS

| | |
|-----------------------|-------|
| Dudley Chambers | 11/27 |
| Harry Crystal | 11/17 |
| Frank Hass | 11/02 |
| Gerald Hoegel | 11/26 |
| Bob Humphrey | 11/17 |
| Arnold Korey | 11/23 |
| William Lingo, Jr. PM | 11/23 |
| Arturo Martin | 11/4 |
| N. Bert McIntosh, Jr | 11/11 |
| Milton Meyers | 11/22 |
| Elon Phillips | 11/04 |
| James Quinn, Jr. | 11/03 |
| Robert Schmidt | 11/05 |
| Thomas Swift | 11/08 |

Average age = 76.2 years old

Oldest = 90 years old

Youngest = 48 years old

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.

MASONIC OUTREACH SERVICES

The easiest way to make your tax-deductible gift to our Masonic Homes is to visit the website at www.freemason.org and click the secure "give on-line" button. It is an easy and fast way to ensure that you help this year. Of course you can always mail your check to the Grand Lodge Office of Philanthropy.

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for email subscribers

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additional articles and information

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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San Diego, CA 92108

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**SUPPORT YOUR
LODGE AND ITS
PROGRAMS.**

**YOUR
ATTENDANCE IS
NEEDED AND
ENCOURAGED!**



FAMILY FLAG FRATERNITY

BLACKMER LODGE OFFICERS

| | |
|--|--------------------------------|
| Master | zdralemi@sbcglobal.net |
| MIKE ZDRAVKOVIC, PM | 619-691-9516 |
| Senior Warden | none |
| DUANE ELY, PM | 619-448-7873 |
| Junior Warden | dell1@nethere.com |
| HAROLD THURBER (Patricia) | 619-669-4731 |
| Treasurer | |
| HAROLD WEISS (Audrey) | 858-278-7036 |
| Secretary | lejent@sbcglobal.net |
| JOHNNY JOHNSON (Joyce) | 619-239-1900 |
| Chaplain | paulfathy@yahoo.com |
| PAUL ATHY (Amy) | 619-337-9454 |
| Senior Deacon | chrispq@hotmail.com |
| CHRIS QUIMPO | 858-560-8024 |
| Junior Deacon | mkaufman4@sanrr.com |
| MARK KAUFMAN (Karen) | 858-248-1502 |
| Marshal | redskinf1111@yahoo.com |
| MATT FOULGER | 619-473-1004 cell 858-254-8665 |
| Senior Steward | sgould1@san.rr.com |
| SCOTT GOULD (Karen) | 858-566-6954 |
| Junior Steward | seankusmc@hotmail.com |
| SEAN KELLER | 760-470-4990 |
| Organist | paul@plwcs.com |
| PAUL WARREN (Mohan) | 619-252-7317 |
| Tiler | hbesnoy@hotmail.com |
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| JOHN HEISNER, PM (Margo) | 619-437-8119 |
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| Immediate Past Master | ctandrews@ca.rr.com |
| COREN ANDREWS, PM ⁴ home 951-698-9924 work 951-786-6422 | |

NOVEMBER 2006 CALENDAR

November

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| Thurs 2nd | STATED MEETING - ELECTION OF OFFICERS at 7:30 p.m. Dinner at 6:30 p.m. Reservations must call 619-291-0465. DOOR PRIZE |
| Mon 6th | Officers' Practice, First Degree, 6:45 p.m. |
| Thurs 9th | First Degree, 7:15 p.m. |
| Mon 13th | Officers' Practice, Second Degree, 6:45 p.m. |
| Thurs 16th | Officers' Practice, Second Degree, 6:45 p.m. |
| Mon 20th | Second Degree, 7:15 p.m. |
| Thurs 23rd | Thanksgiving - be thankful and enjoy |
| Mon 27th | ISI - Master's Questions Workshop |
| Tues 28th | ISI - Warden's Questions Workshop |
| Thurs 30th | Dark |

December

| | |
|------------------|--|
| Mon 4th | Dark? Dine Out? Degree? We shall see. |
| Thurs 7th | Stated Meeting at 7:30 p.m. Dinner at 6:30 p.m. Reservations please call 619-291-0465. ELECTIONS |
| Mon 11th | Installation Practice - all Officers and Installing team |
| Mon 14th | INSTALLATION OF 2007 OFFICERS, 7:30 P.M. |

NOVEMBER STATED MEETING DINNER MENU

Beef Kabobs and Snapper
Twice Baked Potatoes and Baby Carrots
Special Spring Mix Salad and Assorted Breads
Pumpkin Pie and Beverages



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



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2006 LEGISLATION

GRAND MASTER SORSOBAL'S DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- affirmed 52.0%** GM Decision 01 - Use of Costumes in Second Section of Third Degree
failed 43.3% GM Decision 02 - Use of electronic teaching aids for lectures
affirmed 66.9% GM Decision 03 - Continuing Care Retirement Communities
carry over 61.2% GM Recommendation 01 - Reducing 5/6 to 3/4 for adoption of legislation
passed 83.4% GM Recommendation 02 - Adoption of a new code
passed 88.5% GM Recommendation 03 - Date for presentation of Diamond Jubilee Award
passed 92.9% GM Recommendation 04 - Eligibility of applicants from military families
passed 96.4% GM Recommendation 05 - Fiscal year and financial statements for Grand Lodge
passed 97.0% GM Recommendation 06 - Legislative calendar for Annual Communication

CARRYOVER GRAND MASTER DOAN'S RECOMMENDATIONS

- passed 73.2%** 2005-02 Will authorize Concordant and Appendant Masonic Organizations to conduct raffles for the benefit of their charities and for our Masonic Youth Orders to be able to conduct raffles for their charities and special needs such as leadership development and travel to special events.
failed 37.0% 2005-05 Allows the Grand Master sole discretion to appoint or not appoint the Grand Standard Bearer, Grand Sword Bearer, Grand Bible Bearer and Grand Pursuivant.
failed 46.0% 2005-07 Allows a three year pilot program to allow the Grand Master to permit lodges to confer the degrees upon those candidates who have not progressed for at least a year, waiving the required proficiency between the degrees.

CARRYOVER RESOLUTIONS FROM 2005

- withdrawn** 05-05 and 05-06 Seeks to establish that a motion to consider an emergent matter is debatable.
failed 37.1% 05-09 Would allow Lodges to store alcoholic beverages on Masonic property under certain safeguards and conditions.

2006 RESOLUTIONS

- failed 48.8%** 06-01 Will make offenses committed against Masonic affiliated organizations unmasonic conduct.
passed 92.9% 06-02 Will allow a Master Mason to be a Master, Warden or Secretary of a Regular Lodge and a Research Lodge at the same time.
carry over 79.2% 06-03 Seeks to reduce the minimum required members for a new lodge from 25 to 15.
passed 90.1% 06-04 Seeks support for Masonic information and child id booths by the California Masonic Foundation.
carry over 75.4% 06-05 Will reinstate the rule for forfeiture of fees and contributions for failure to advance.
failed 16.7% 06-06 Seeks to have the lectures in the cipher written with a bare minimum of key words in abbreviated form or in code, similar to the booklets authorized by the Grand Lodge of Arizona on May 17, 1994.
passed 85.4% 06-07 Will allow transfer of life memberships to the Grand Master's Lodge.
failed 23.7% 06-08 Would add members in good standing of the Masonic Youth Orders to the list of persons authorized to receive Masonic relief.
carry over 68.0% 06-09 Will allow for rounding up of Lodge dues based in part on the annual Grand Lodge per capita.

Melvyn B Stein **Grand Master**
Richard W. Hopper **Deputy Grand Master**
Larry L. Adamson **Senior Grand Warden**
Kenneth G. Nagel **Junior Grand Warden**
Glenn D. Woody **Grand Treasurer**
John L. Cooper III **Grand Secretary**
Paul D. Hennig **Grand Lecturer**
Maxwell S. Roth Grand Chaplain
A. Glenn MacBride AGL Division II
Vernon M. Dandridge AGL Division III
Jack M. Rose AGL Division IV
E. Dale Armstrong AGL Division V
Ralph B. Dash Grand Orator

Allan L. Casalou Asst. Grand Secretary
George L. Geanoulis Grand Marshal
Dennis T. Dyer Grand Standard Bearer
Robert A. Reynolds Grand Sword Bearer
Redentor M. Manuto Grand Bible Bearer
Robert L. Sills Senior Grand Deacon
Timothy A. Wood Junior Grand Deacon
James E. Banta Senior Grand Steward
Randall T. Freeman Junior Grand Steward
Fenton R. Mereness Grand Pursuivant
Richard M. Timmins Grand Organist
Donald R. Taylor, Sr. Grand Tiler
Stephen R. Miller Asst. Grand Organist