



Trestleboard

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

December, 2006

Volume XCIII, Number 12

THE PLUMB

*"Let thine eyes look right on, and let
thine eyelids look straight before thee."*

Prov. 4:25

Freemasons are instructed that they are to "act by the plumb" at all times throughout their Masonic careers. The plumb is an instrument made use of by operative masons, or masons who actually erected temples, cathedrals and other mighty edifices, to arrive at truly perpendicular lines. It has also been adopted in Speculative Masonry as one of the principle "working tools," or implements of architecture intended to convey wise and serious philosophical truths. As such, it is a symbol of rectitude of conduct and inculcates integrity and upright moral behavior.

The Freemason who chooses to adhere to the precepts of the Craft is guided by the unerring principles of truth. The plumb is symbolic of the necessity for each man to carefully select moral and spiritual values as his ideals from which he will not deviate even in the face of adversity. It is the matter of the ideal that is most important to Freemasons, because it serves as the blueprint around which each man will, or should design his respective attitudes.

Plato considered the dynamics of selecting a principle, or ideal, that is built upon by the powers of the human mind. In so doing, he explored the impact of willpower on the pursuit of a worthwhile ideal. Suffice to say that Plato concluded, as have other writers, that the fulfillment of any ideal is directly proportionate to what one wills to accomplish.

It is easy to say pick and ideal, design your attitudes to keep them positive and take a walk when you are feeling blue. It is easy to say, but hardly easy to do. If we are depressed, tired, sick, or frightened maintaining a positive outlook can become enormously difficult. Anyone who says you can always do that which you will to do simply has not been in tough situations.

To believe that you can do anything you choose, or will to do also sounds grandiose. From our own life experiences, it does not seem right that by sheer strength of will one can expect to always have things his or her way. In fact, it sounds selfish, manipulative a just a bit deluded. So what does Freemasonry expect from us in this regard? It is one thing to accept the scriptural proposition that faith can move mountains, but it would also seem that greed could destroy the mountain. Moreover, we are taught that self-centered willfulness produces darkness rather than light.

The plumb reminds us not to veer too far from right to left, or from left to right during our journey throughout life. We are to seek to achieve balance in all matters, which also requires us to heal or remove negative attitudes. However, simply trying to rely upon raw willpower can be counterproductive. Tapping into a higher form of will can prove to be a better strategy and produce a Freemason's ideal. Relating to a higher will, first expressed in the form of an ideal, also helps guide behavior according to spiritual values and leads to the use of higher

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contact us

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619-291-0465**

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FROM THE SECRETARY

The year of 2006 is rapidly fading into the sunset. Blackmer Installation will be on December 14th, I am sure that the new line of officers would like to see a big turnout to give them the support for the upcoming year.

This will be my last article as your secretary. Brother Arnold Korey has been elected to be your Secretary for the upcoming years. I would like to thank the Officers and Brethren for all of the support that they have given to me. I am sure that Arnold will do a great job as your secretary and I hope that you give him the support that you gave to me. Again Thank You, and may God Bless you.

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.

Fraternally,
Johnny Johnson,
Secretary



**Blackmer Lodge #442, F. & A. M
cordially invites you to attend the
Ninety-Third Annual
Installation of Officers
Scottish Rite Memorial Center
1895 Camino del Rio South
San Diego, California**



**Monday, December 11th, 2006
at 7:30 o'clock in the evening**

**Open to all Masons, their Families and Friends
Mike Zdravkovic, PM, Master-Elect**

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powers of the mind. The higher form of will represents the true will, or dynamic, propelling force within every soul – the God within. It has the same freedom of choice as its Creator and if deferred to will guide, develop, change and motivate human behavior.

The will is also the agent of obedience that teaches us to become subject to certain outside influences that are beyond the individual self. Where selfishness derives from self-centeredness, selflessness springs from spiritual influences contained in ideals. Before a Freemason can accomplish the ideal of selflessness he must understand what the Craft requires of him when it demands obedience.

Obedience rivets the will-to-greatness of the heart silencing personal desires. It is what is meant by the phrase “circumscribing our desires.” True obedience is the very opposite of tyranny and slavery, since its root is the love which flows from faith. That which is above serves that which is below and that which is below obeys that which is above. Thus, obedience is the practical conclusion to that which one recognizes as the existence of something higher than oneself. Whosoever recognizes the Supreme Architect of the Universe, obeys.

Such obedience is visibly practiced in certain religious orders. For example, the chela follows his or her guru in India and Tibet. This is also true of the absolute obedience that the hassidim have toward their tzadecim in the Jewish Hassidic communities. It is exemplified with a Masonic lodge wherein the assembled brethren are taught

obedience to the master – not obedience to tyranny, but obedience to the service of others.

The plumb is also the emblem appearing on the jewel worn by the Junior Warden during all approved Masonic events. It is, therefore, the Junior Warden in every Masonic lodge who symbolizes obedience to faith, integrity and honor. He also symbolizes the proper Masonic ideal, which is to radiate outward beyond the lodge room to the rest of the world as the “beauty and glory of the day.”

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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FREE STATED MEETING DINNERS

How would you like to win the door prize at our November Stated Meeting? The prize winner was Richard Markson who will receive five Stated Meeting dinners at no cost to him. Thank you all who were there and participated.

ELECTIONS HELD

The annual election of officers for your Lodge was held at our Stated Meeting on November 2nd. Worshipful Mike was elected to be Master of the Lodge for another year. Brother Harold Thurber will be Senior Warden, Brother Chris Quimpo will be Junior Warden, Harold Weiss will continue as Treasurer and Arnold Korey will be our new Secretary. Our award winning Secretary, Johnny Johnson, will be retiring and assisting Brother Arnold. Brother Mark Kaufman will take the Senior Warden's chair for the next year. We also learned that the Scottish Rite has reduced our rent which should help with the upcoming budget. The next step will be to support them at the Installation of Officers on the second Thursday in December, the 14th.

SPECIAL THANK YOU

Worshipful Coren sends out a very special thank you to Margaret Raymond of San Diego for a surprise package that shows up every now and then. She collects tabs and sends them in. Thank you so much. Also, thank you to the Brothers who slip him envelopes and baggies (with tabs) at our meetings.

ANOTHER THANK YOU

THANK YOU to our Brother Johnny Johnson. THANK YOU for taking the position of Secretary in the Lodge's time of need. THANK YOU for your excellent job and dedication to the office and to the Lodge. We are grateful and you have earned the admiration and respect of everyone you come in contact with. THANK YOU!

FROM THE EAST

Brethren,

Another year of the Blackmer Lodge is getting to a close. We had our downsittings and our uprisings and are getting geared up for the ensuing year. Excellent line of Officers is in place and an interesting program is on the books. For last dozen or so years I have been managing an apartment complex in Chula Vista and to each new resident I will say: "You know, I am always in the office except when I am not." Well brethren, The Blackmer Lodge's Installation of Officers is always on the Second Thursday in December and this year we can add: "except when it is not". You have elsewhere in this Trestleboard noticed that this year our Installation is taking place on the Monday 11th of December. Our landlord, The Scottish Rite Center, made some prior commitments, so the building is fully rented for a huge Gem Fair and we will hold our Installation on Monday. Hope to see you all then and there. After the Installation there will be some Serbian pastries and an European Bakery cake.

I wish you all Very Happy Holiday Season of 2006/2007.

Mihailo O'Zdravkovic

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

Hasan Aker	12/01
Paul Athy	12/21
Richard Barrett, Jr.	12/04
Humberto Barron, Jr.	12/27
Jimmy Faddis	12/07
Leonard Fraitag, PM	12/23
Eugene Goldman, PM	12/16
William Greenman	12/27
Ryan Griffin	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
Predrag Mitrovich	12/30
Galen Niedenfuehr, PM	12/05
David Nobles	12/16
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 Summers	12/21
Raymond Tatum, PM	12/04
Paul Young	12/15

Average age = 65.7 years old

Oldest = 101 years old

Youngest = 38 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.

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

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**SUPPORT YOUR
LODGE AND ITS
PROGRAMS.**

**YOUR
ATTENDANCE IS
NEEDED AND
ENCOURAGED!**



FAMILY FLAG FRATERNITY

BLACKMER LODGE OFFICERS

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DECEMBER 2006 CALENDAR

December

Mon 4th	Officers and Inst. Team Practice for Installation, 6:45 p.m.
Thurs 7th	STATED MEETING at 7:30 p.m. Dinner at 6:30 p.m. Reservations must call 619-291-0465.
Mon 11th	INSTALLATION OF 2007 OFFICERS, 7:30 P.M.
Thurs 14th	Dark
Mon 18th	Dark
Thurs 21st	Dark
Mon 25th	Christmas Day
Thurs 28th	Dark

January

Mon 1st	New Year's Day
Thurs 4th	Stated Meeting at 7:30 p.m. Dinner at 6:30 p.m. Reservations please call 619-291-0465. ELECTIONS

DECEMBER STATED MEETING DINNER MENU

Honey Baked Ham and Roast Turkey
Potatoes au Gratin and Mixed Vegetables
Tossed Green Salad and Assorted Rolls
Dutch Apple Pie a la mode
Beverages



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



THE PRESIDENTIAL BIBLE

George Washington remains the most famous Freemason in U.S. history, and every American Mason proudly feels a connection to him. Washington was initiated as a Mason in 1752, in Fredericksburg, Virginia. He became a Master Mason the following year. Before the War of Independence, Washington had distinguished himself as a British military officer, and he was highly respected and admired when he was picked to lead the new Continental Army. His patriotism, heroism, and visionary leadership during the war are well known.

It is perhaps difficult for modern Americans to understand just how universally beloved Washington became, both during and after the war. He was offered many honors and positions in the wake of this adoration. As the United States' most honored war hero, its first Commander in Chief, first President, and a host of other firsts, he was acutely aware that every action he took would create new traditions and set possibly dangerous precedents for the new country. As a result, he calmly and wisely turned down many offers and honors for the sake of the nation's future.

When Washington was inaugurated as the first President of the United States, the ceremony had obviously never been performed before. Like everything else in the new nation, it needed to be created from scratch. Washington was to be sworn in at a ceremony in New York City on April 30, 1789. The 57-year-old hero set out on horseback from Mount Vernon, and his long trip to New York was filled with celebrations, canon-salutes, fireworks, and feasts.

By the time he got to New York, it was a full-blown party. The ceremony was to take place in Federal Hall, on Wall Street. When the time came, Washington requested a Bible on which to take the oath of office, but no one had thought to bring one for the occasion. Robert Livingston, Grand Master of New York, knew there would be a Bible in nearby St. John's Lodge #1, and sent for it. Washington took the oath of office on the open Bible and then kissed the open book. The page was bookmarked where Washington's hand rested, and the lodge has preserved the Bible for more than 200 years.

At least five presidents have taken the oath of office on the St. John's Bible: Washington, Warren G. Harding, Dwight D. Eisenhower, Jimmy Carter, and George Herbert Walker Bush. Of the five, only Washington and Harding were Freemasons. George W. Bush requested the Bible in 2001, and the fragile, 10-pound book was hand-carried to Washington, D.C., by members of the lodge. Unfortunately, the rain poured down on inauguration day, which would have put the book in danger. The Bible was placed on display in a museum in New York later that year, just 3 blocks away from the World Trade Center. In a display case, it survived the horrible destruction of September 11, 2001.

From a side-bar in "Freemasons for Dummies", by Christopher Hodapp



Do you know the name of this Lodge? We do. Article to right was the installation speech from the Master in 1999 having been presented by the Master of a sister lodge the previous year. Please send your guess to Coren Andrews at ctandrews@ca.rr.com. No prize but you will be recognized in next months **PAGE 5**.

What do Masons do, anyway?

One can obviously see how this question would be difficult to answer for non-Masons, but shouldn't the answer be trivial for Masons? Well, maybe, but within our Lodge - and perhaps within yours as well - this question has come up many times and no one has yet come up with an accurate, but succinct answer.

Think about it. I'm sure some of you are saying to yourselves: Well, Masons in the U.S. contribute well over a million dollars a day to charities ranging from the Shriners Hospitals for Crippled Children to the Scottish Rite Language Disorders Clinics to the various York Rite Bodies' medical research funds. Also, let us not forget programs such as the Student Assistance Program to help teachers recognize and deal with students at risk and the large number of substantial scholarships given to graduating high school seniors each year by the California Masonic Foundation, not to mention funds raised to benefit local schools and charitable organizations on the local level by our local Lodges. Even more important, almost all of this charity is dispensed without regard to Masonic affiliation.

Well, this is all well and good and something of which we can justifiably be proud, but I submit to you that these activities do not present a satisfactory answer to the question under discussion. Masons believe in philanthropy, but we do not consider ourselves to be a philanthropic organization per se.

Some of you may be thinking: "Well, we take care of our widows, orphans, and impoverished brethren by supporting the Masonic Homes and offering Masonic charity when called for". And, again, we should justifiably be proud of these efforts, but - strictly speaking - Freemasonry is not a benevolence or insurance society either.

Given the hour, some of you may be thinking "Masons sure do eat well when the talking stops". And while a love of food - in my case, perhaps, an addiction - seems to be a mark of a Mason, no one would consider the essence of Masonry to be a dining club.

"Aha", someone in the backrow might be thinking, "Masonry takes good men and makes them better". While this is, in principle, true, the phrase is cliché at best and jingoistic at worst and raises more questions (How? Where? When?) than it answers. However, the sentiment behind this statement does, indeed, provide the germ of an answer to the deceptively simple question just posed.

I want to submit to you this evening that the most succinct answer to the question "What do Masons do?" is simply that Masons Do! Whether we are talking about huge cooperative efforts like the East/West Shrine Game or local fund-raising efforts to benefit a local school, whether we are talking about visiting the sick, providing a voting precinct, putting on a degree, or just practicing for one - Even if we are just talking about breaking bread together: Masons continually prove that it is in fact possible - and most certainly desirable - for men with perhaps nothing in common in the traditional sense - men of different religions, ethnicity, economic, and education levels - to work together to build something greater than themselves or their own self-interests. In a world that is increasingly polarized by greed and the belief in some quarters in the absolute supremacy of one's own conception of Deity, Masons - even by their smallest actions - demonstrate that the concept of true brotherhood is not just an ephemeral concept from a sociology textbook and that building is not just a term that can be applied to contractors. This, brethren and friends, is, in my opinion, the essence of the fraternity and the thing of which all Masons should be the most proud.