

TRESTLEBOARD

Blackmer Lodge #442

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

March, 2007

Volume XCIV, Number 3

THE BEEHIVE

*"Wherefore we labor, that, whether present
or absent, we may be accepted of him"*

2 Cor. 5:9

Of all the hieroglyphical emblems explained to a Master Mason none is more significant than *the beehive*. Symbolizing industry and labor, *the beehive* is said to teach us that work is required of all men and creatures on earth, as well as of the creatures in heaven. It serves as a reminder that true happiness and prosperity are found only when man labors diligently for the common good. So important is that labor that Masonry regards the man who refuses to work for his neighbor as a drone – a useless member of society who is unworthy of being protected as a Mason.

Throughout history, the bee has been regarded as a symbol of wisdom. As the bee extracts pollen from the flowers, so does man extract wisdom from the events in his daily life. The insect is also considered sacred to the goddess Venus and is one of the many life forms for whose origin cannot presently be traced. In that bees are ruled by queens, they are also viewed as representative of the so-called feminine principle. Yet, Masonry holds more closely to the symbolism that relates to industry and labor – for very obvious reasons.

The Great Architect has not created a world filled with rich men and women. Rather, the earth largely consists of humans who are so poor that each must toil ceaselessly for a meager subsistence. It is precisely for this reason that Masonry holds work in such high esteem. It honors the worker who produces, as opposed to the person who simply consumes that which the labor of others produces.

The *law of attraction*, so well known to Masonry from time immemorial, theorizes that man's life consists of that which he

makes for himself. The theory rests heavily upon positive thinking, but positive thinking without work to accomplish the task is as dead as the Apostle James found faith without works. Thought lays out the plan that work will accomplish. One does not serve mankind without the other.

As odd as it may seem, in truth almost all of the noblest achievements in the world have been made by people of poor means. Poets, scholars, artisans and artists whose roots extend deeply into the poverty stricken highways of the world have produced works of genius. There is nothing glorious in the world that did not first require labor, either of the body or the mind. Without it there would be no pyramids in Egypt to set the mind to wondering; no temples or houses of worship to clear the soul before devoting to God; no canals, highways or air terminals to transport commerce; and no memory of the past or hope for the future.

Freemasonry also teaches that we should encourage our offspring to labor, if we truly desire to provide for the greatest chance for their future happiness. Man was not created for luxuries, neither was his mind suited for indolence. He who pampers his body and mind with luxuries and indulgences sends the wrong message to his children. *The beehive* represents work, not the accumulation of wealth. Is your legacy to be an example of self absorption, or one of serving mankind? Do you wish to set your children on the path to indulgence, luxury and vice, or is it more important to you that they become good citizens serving others? Masonry teaches that the service to all mankind is the noblest destiny of man. It also teaches that wealth is to be used to heal the sick and strengthen the poor of spirit. It is these lessons that *the beehive* seeks to impart.

It is man's nature to desire distinction – to feel important and needed. Whether at work, at home, or in a Masonic lodge, man wants to show that he not only belongs, but that he also has something important to
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contact us

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619-291-0465

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619-291-1364

FROM THE SECRETARY

I would like to wish everyone a HAPPY ST PATRICK'S DAY, and hope that you will be able to join the members of BLACKMER LODGE in one of our activities during this month. If there is anything that I as Secretary can do to assist the members please feel free to call me.

You can do something for me, please check your dues card to see if your dues are current. If you have any questions please feel free to call me at the lodge or leave a message and I will call you back.

I hope that as we do the degrees this month that those that are able will join us and come see the "work" of our officers. We have some young men that do outstanding work in the degrees.

Please let me know when you move or change your address so I can update the Lodge mailing list.

A great big THANK YOU to those that have joined the permanent dinner list. Remember if you are not on this list and want to join us for dinner, please call by the Monday before the stated meeting.

Johnny Johnson is home and on the mend. Harold Thurber had bypass surgery on 2/23. Keep them both in your thoughts and prayers

Faternally,
Arnold L. Korey

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contribute. Masons are not taught to run from those natural feelings, but to apply them in their lives in a positive manner. The perversion of these desires results in striving to accumulate titles, money, honors and public acclaim. The positive application of those desires results in housing for the aged, hospitals for ill children and free clinics for those who need assistance in speaking so that they may be clearly understood. It is the latter application, not the former perversion that promotes real progress for all humanity.

Edgar Cayce, the famous seer of the 1920's, '30's and '40's, underscored this truth during his readings of "patients'" past lives. Whether or not one accepts or rejects the notion that a human being, such as Cayce, could ever possess such abilities, or that souls incarnate, die and are reincarnated is entirely irrelevant. Rather, even if nothing more than symbolic of what was in his mind, the readings relating to work and industry are instructive to Masons.

Cayce interviewed several persons whom he reported had, in previous lives, held significant positions of power and leadership in places of government. He also reported that in other previous lives, those same entities had lived in poverty, or were relegated to a lesser station in life. Without exception the poor and lowly, because of their work and industry, made greater lasting contributions to society than did those who enjoyed positions of power. The reason for such a result was not because the people themselves were defective, but rested squarely upon the fact that God expects us to serve others, not ourselves.

The beehive also teaches us that every man has a work to do in himself. That work is nobler than the fashioning of wood or marble – it concerns the shaping of the human soul. Freemasonry refers to that work as *the work of virtue*, without which man lives his entire life without ever fulfilling his true destiny. No Mason should ever deem his life doomed to mediocrity, meanness, vanity, or unprofitable toil. In the great providence of the Supreme Architect of the Universe there is enough good work for every man. He needs but to think it and then to do it.

Masonry has always sought to ennoble common life. The rich and the poor, the high and the low, who as created by one

almighty parent and inhabitants of the same planet are to aid, support and protect each other. What is done in private is oftentimes more important to the progress of humanity than that which is performed in public. The anonymous gift to hospitals where doctors straighten the twisted limbs of our children; the quiet soft prayer spoken on behalf of another in need; and the humble giving of one's time to heal another's distresses are at least as valuable to the advancement of the human soul as are the more public decisions made by legislators, business executives and community leaders.

Placed in its proper perspective, *the beehive* symbolically emphasizes one word that is well known among Masons. That word is *duty*. The bee that gathers the pollen does so because that is its duty. The bee that builds the hive does so because it must. And the queen presides over all of the activity because that is the proper order of things necessary to fulfill the duty of the hive. Each has a work to do that if unperformed renders the work of the entire hive incomplete. So, too, should each Mason perform his respective service that the work of the Craft will be completed.

May the Great Architect of the Universe Bless You,

John R. Heisner, PM

HELPING YOUTH

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

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Blackmer Lodge

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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NOTICE:

Mark your calendars. Honored Ladies luncheon is Thursday, May 17 at Noon.

DINING OUT IN STYLE

We don't think anyone will be disappointed with our next dine-out experience. The food is really good; steak, burgers, ribs and all at decent prices. We will be there at 6:30, the Roadhouse Grill in Santee. It is just north of Mission Gorge Road on Cuyamaca Street just past Mimi's. Please contact Harry Besnoy or the Lodge office to let us know you are coming so we have a head count and might be able to get a private room. All Brethren, Ladies and Friends are invited, just be sure to CALL to let us know.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The Grand Lodge theme for Public Schools this year is "Public Schools are the cornerstone of an enlightened citizenry." Think about it and support your local public schools however you can.

FROM THE EAST

Brethren,

In the Fraternal Review of the Southern California Research Lodge F&AM appeared excerpts of an article on Education by Br.R.M.Firestone, PhD, PM part of which I found interesting:

—Masonry claims as one of its goals "to make good men better." This is not the same as making ALL men better - the job of religion - or of making bad men better - the job of the correctional system. Masonry starts with men who are already "good" which is to say, already inclined towards moral actions in their lives, and who have not transgressed society's bounds - something to be determined by an investigating committee and by the vouchers on a petition.

What does it mean to be better? It means that a better man will more fre-

quently and consistently make choices and engage in actions for the moral good than he did before. Many religions have but a few symbols: The Cross, the Crucifix, the Crescent, the Star of David, etc. with which to teach a vast number of precepts. Masonry furnishes many symbols with more specific lessons associated with them. The Mason who is familiar with the work will find one or more of the symbols of the Craft applicable to his daily life with some frequency.

Masonry is about making good men better; therefore, a man who has improved himself in Masonry will go beyond the minimum of refraining from ill behavior such as bigotry and dishonesty to positive ethical action. From simple tolerance, the better man will go on to encourage and defend religious liberty and diversity of thought. From simple abstention from criminal behavior, the better man will go on to promote justice and eradicate the ignorance and darkness that leads others to a life of crime.

Mihailo O'Zdravkovic

BLACKMER WEBSITE

Check out our Lodge's website at www.calodges.org/no442. We have made some updates and are looking for your suggestions. Your editor and webmaster promises to do his best to immediately post the Trestleboard and to do a better job of updating the site. Please email him at ctandrews@ca.rr.com with comments.

BULLETIN BY EMAIL

We want YOU to begin receiving your bulletin by email, send a note saying "I'm in!" to Coren Andrews at ctandrews@ca.rr.com

TELL YOUR BRETHREN

BIRTHDAYS

Francis Adams	3/10
Norman Alpert	3/12
Jonathan Blayman	3/03
Thomas Bossert	3/05
George Brassfield	3/27
Werner Dreifuss	3/12
Lou Dunst	3/11
Oberlin Evenson	3/26
Morey Feldman	3/07
Matt Foulger	3/18
Scott Gould	3/25
Justin Hammerlun	3/27
Carmi Hodge	3/13
Jim Hom	3/07
Saul Klein, PM	3/03
Ray Krum	3/24
Kevin Mofidi	3/21
Albino Navasca	3/01
Laurence Plummer	3/09
Richard Saldano, PM	3/01
Emeterio Salindong	3/03
Robert Smith	3/17
Frederick Swenson	3/29
Konstantin Swerilas	3/30
John Vooring	3/19

Average age = 68.23 years old
Oldest = 104 years old
Youngest = 49 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.

THANK YOU

Past Master Coren Andrews is happy to receive can tabs in any quantity and thanks all of you who continue to bring them in. Late this summer we should have pictures of the fruits of our labors.

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for email subscribers

- additional articles and information

PLEASE CHECK YOUR DUES CARD. IT SHOULD SAY "PAID THROUGH DECEMBER, 2007."

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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**SUPPORT YOUR
LODGE AND ITS
PROGRAMS.**

**YOUR
ATTENDANCE IS
NEEDED AND
ENCOURAGED!**



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MARCH 2007 CALENDAR

March

- Thurs 1st** **STATED MEETING** at 7:30 p.m. Dinner at 6:30 p.m. Reservations must call 619-291-0465. Business casual.
- Mon 5th** **Family Dine Out**-Roadhouse Grill in Santee at 6:30 p.m. see article on page 3
- Thurs 8th** Third Degree Practice - 6:45 p.m
- Mon 12th** First Degree Practice - 6:45 p.m
- Thurs 15th** First Degree Practice - 6:45 p.m. (Possibly a First Degree)
- Mon 19th** **PROFICIENCY NIGHT - 7:00 p.m.**
- Thurs 22nd** **THIRD DEGREE CONFERRAL - 7:15 p.m.**
- Mon 26th** ISI - All Officers to attend - 837 works FC First and Second Sections and Lectures. Call Inspector 619-461-5724 if you need to be excused.
- Thurs 29th** DARK

April

- Mon 5th** Family Dine Out
- Thurs 1st** **Stated Meeting** at 7:30 p.m. Dinner at 6:30 p.m. Reservations please call 619-291-0465.

MARCH STATED MEETING DINNER MENU

Corned Beef and Cabbage and Mahi Mahi
Potatoes Au Gratin and Zucchini and Squash
Caesar Salad and Assorted Rolls
Ice Cream and toppings
Beverages



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



Do you know these men? Hint, they were Officers of Blackmer Lodge and this was an anniversary year. Your duty, if you accept it, is to email the editor at ctandrews@ca.rr.com with their names, the year, and where the picture was taken. Hopefully, this bulletin will not self destruct before you have time to do your research.

THE PRICE OF BEING A JOINER

To understand just how popular being a member of a fraternal organization in the United States was after the Civil War, looking at a few statistics is useful. By 1899, more than 6 million out of 21 million adult men in the United States were members of one or more of the country's 300 fraternal organizations, which conferred about 1,000 degrees on 200,000 new members a year. The average fraternal lodge member spent \$50 a year on dues and insurance, and another \$200 on initiation fees, ritualistic paraphernalia, banquets, and travel. Bear in mind that the average factory worker at that time earned just \$400 to \$500 a year. In 2005, those \$50 dues would be equal to \$1,108. And that \$200 budget for initiation, paraphernalia, banquets, and travel in 1899 would cost \$4,431 today, on an adjusted salary of between \$8,862 and \$11,078 a year. Bottom line: These guys were paying about 50 to 60 percent of their yearly salaries just to be members of fraternal organizations.

Remember that these were the days before HMOs, Medicare, and Social Security, and many of the fraternal groups began to offer inexpensive insurance programs to their members. In fact, many groups existed solely as

insurance societies that just happened to have initiation rites! Seen in that light, it was well worth the money, even for men of limited means. A common workingman no longer had to worry about what would happen to his wife and children if something happened to him. His fraternal brothers would take care of his family when he was gone.

BROTHERLY LOVE

Simply put, Masons believe in the Golden Rule. The Golden Rule is part of every great world religion, so it qualifies as the single, unifying theme of all faiths. Its most basic concept is the cornerstone of Freemasonry, no matter how it is phrased:

- Buddhism: "In five ways should a clansman minister to his friends and families; by generosity, courtesey, and benevolence, by treating them as he treats himself, and by being as good as his word."
- Christianity: "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you."
- Confucianism: "What you do not want done to yourself, do not do to others."
- Hinduism: "Men gifted with intelligence... should always treat others as they themselves wish to be treated."
- Islam: "No one of you is a believer until he loves for his brother what he loves for himself."
- Judaism: "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself."
- Taoism: "Regard your neighbor's gain as your own gain, and regard your neighbor's loss as your own loss."

MASONIC BLING-BLING

In Europe, most Masons don't wear Masonic jewelery, because there is a societal suspicion of Freemasons there. American Masons, on the other hand, are very fond of Masonic jewelery, pins, rings, hats, shirts, jackets, and belt buckles. After you become a Master Mason, you can wear items with a square and compass on them. If you are not a Freemason, you shouldn't wear something you aren't entitled to. It's sort of like wearing a policeman's badge or a Purple Heart if you aren't a cop or a wounded veteran.



Three excerpts from *Freemasons for Dummies* by Christopher Hodapp.
An interesting volume to add to your library.