

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

April, 2007

Volume XCIV, Number 4

DIVESTED OF ALL MINERALS AND METALS

*"And there thou shalt build an altar unto
the Lord thy God"*

Deut. 27:5

Masonry requires that the candidates for degrees must enter a Masonic lodge without any metallic substances on their person. They are also instructed that King Solomon's Temple was erected without the aid of any iron or metallic tools. Also, the candidates eventually learn of the Masonic importance of the biblical character Tubal-cain, who is described in the book of Genesis as the first artificer in metals. Explanations about each of these subjects are provided, but they are merely preliminary to the true explanations, which are veiled in the mysteries of the Craft that each candidate must explore.

Freemasonry's relationship to the science and philosophy of alchemy has been written about extensively by this and other Masonic authors. Indeed, if one lifts the veil of Masonic mysteries high enough, he will see beneath it an alchemical formula that is essential to the Third Degree allegories. The alchemical significance of divesting a person of all metallic substances before permitting him into the mystical circle where the valuable lessons are fully explained is that it symbolizes the candidate's preparation to be made into a new man. As lustration, or baptism symbolizes the completion of man's commitment to spiritual renewal, so too does divesting of metallic substances symbolize man's readiness to learn and become reborn.

The act of divesting further ac-

knowledges the need to rid oneself of the resulting impurities that an adherence to the material side of life inflicts upon man's soul. In accord with the Hermetic philosophy, the goal of Freemasonry is to provide a candidate the tools necessary to make his material life consistent with his spiritual life. God never intended for man to select one as opposed to the other. Rather, He intended that all men would live a spiritual life in the body and environment in which he was placed by Nature at the time of his creation.

If the science of alchemy may be said to have a reference to the transformation of substances, then the philosophy of alchemy may be said to similarly pertain to the transformation of men from non-spiritual to spiritual beings. As such, the importance to Freemasons is not so much the substantive alchemical philosophy as it is what that substantive philosophy symbolizes to us. It is not enough to merely state that it symbolizes change. It is far more important to understand that it symbolizes the need to learn how to change and how to make the necessary changes.

Freemasonry selects tools of architecture, or tools of iron from which to teach wise and serious truths. The plumb, level and square are implements used for construction and together with the other several tools of iron selected by the Craft teach a candidate the what and how of transforming himself from a non-spiritual to a spiritual being. For example the plumb admonishes us to walk uprightly before God,

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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 all the brethren and their families a HAPPY EASTER or HAPPY PASSOVER which ever of these holidays they may observe.

I want to thank the brothers who have called for the dinner reservations for the Stated Meeting, this is a big help in keeping an accurate count for the caterer. For those who want to be added to the list call me by the Monday before our Stated Meeting.

This month we will present the Hiram Award for one of our deserving Brothers. I would ask that all that can attend make your plans to be there and honor this Brother, please call for your dinner reservations. Also check our schedule of coming Degrees and join us in Lodge.

I have talked to our Brothers, Harold Thurber and Johnny Johnson, both are recovering at home and doing very well. We are looking forward to their return to Lodge.

I would ask if any Brother has a question about an event in the Lodge please feel to call me at the Lodge office and I will try and give you the latest information. I am in the processes of going through the information I have in the office computer and would appreciate it if you have any updates or happen to have moved, that you would let me know of the change as soon as possible. Call the office or drop me an email.

Fraternally,
Arnold L. Korey

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which means that we must learn and follow His laws, which laws include the laws of Nature. The level teaches us that we are traveling a path that eventually will lead us to a world beyond this material existence – a place from whose bourne no traveler returns. We are thereby taught that something is expected of us; something other than living a life filled with luxury and indolence.

Your universe is created by the thoughts and feelings you experience in your daily life. This is the great lesson of alchemy and the centerpiece to the ancient mysteries that Freemasonry promotes. As you think and feel virtuous, you attract virtuous things into your life. When you permit negative thoughts and feelings to gain a foothold in your life, you attract negative things. Freemasonry teaches us to contemplate the plumb, level and square, as well as the other tools of architecture, which we use to build good thoughts and excellent feelings. When those lessons are learned, the Mason becomes all that he wishes to become – and even more.

The lodge room is Freemasonry's laboratory – the place where experiments in brotherhood become creations of social love. In the lodge room, one brother Mason listens to the cares and concerns of another brother Mason and then works to relieve those conditions. The thoughts and feelings generated by that one encounter carry over into matters outside of the lodge. Homes for the aged appear, eye foundations emerge, clinics pop up to aid the speechless and hospital abound to care for the injured children where once before they were without any care.

But, there is a personal responsibility associated with becoming all that you want to become. First and foremost, a Mason must learn patience – nothing happens over night. Second, a Mason must employ perseverance on a daily basis. It does little good to think and behave virtuously for a day and then to behave badly for days thereafter. Commitment to excellence of thought and emotion is a lifetime commitment. Third, a Mason must place his brother ahead of himself, for to think and feel selfishly will result in attracting only those people who think and feel similarly. Finally, a Mason needs to be acquainted with the true meaning of the word love. It begins with a love of God, being thankful for Him, His creations and His gift of life. It culminates with the love of other human beings, if for no other reason than they are the creations of the Great Architect whom we adore.

Thus, transforming by thought and emotion is the great work of Freemasonry. It begins with the divesting of all minerals and metals – those substances that we have accumulated as baggage in our lives before we were introduced to Masonic thought and Masonic emotion. As Shakespeare stated, "Think well, act well, and live well."

Do you now know the secret?
John Heisner, PM

2007

HIRAM AWARD

MONDAY

APRIL 30TH

DINNER AT 6:30

HONORING WORSHIPFUL BROTHER

RICHARD

SALDANO, PM

HELLO, BROTHER

Our Brother, Sean Keller, got married in September and he and his wife Jordan are now residing in Boulder Creek, up near Santa Cruz. They are expecting this spring and his Dad writes that he is looking forward to being a grandfather, really. Dad is working on the Grandpa part and hoping that Sean will soon have time to resume his Masonic travels in the Santa Cruz area. Happy Birthday Sean and we wish you Jordan all the happiness you deserve.

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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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APRIL - PUBLIC SCHOOLS MONTH

For more than eighty-five years California Masonry has been a staunch supporter of our public school system offering a free education to all without regard to race, color, creed, religion, economic status or physical disability. In Masonry, April is celebrated as Public Schools Month. This year's theme is: "Public Schools are the cornerstone of an enlightened citizenry".

Our Public Schools are one of our greatest resources to assure America continues to be a leader in educating its citizens to assure our government continues of, for and by the people it governs.

FROM THE EAST

Brethren,

Did it ever happen to you that in reading some material some interesting cords get stricken within you other than that of words themselves? Going over a booklet written by C.H.Cloudy in 1924. I am compelled to bring some parts of it to you. ...You are preparing to become a Mason. How are you preparing? You have the ambition to put upon your breast a tiny pin, representing the Square and Compasses; an ambition to be known as a Master Mason; an ambition to join great Fraternity of which perhaps your father was a member; an ambition to be one of that large brotherhood of which you may have heard so much and of which you know so little.

So you have asked a friend you know to be a Mason, how to proceed. He has given you a petition to fill out and sign. In this petition you are asked to declare your belief in God, and probably your friend has explained to you that "God" here means the Supreme Architect of the Universe, call Him by what name you will. He may be to you God or Jehovah or Adonai or Buddha or Allah.. it makes no difference to Masons by what name you call Him, so far as there is within you the humble acknowledgment that you are a creature of His and that He reigns over the

heavens and the earth.

You asked a friend to take your petition into his lodge. His lodge is his Masonic home. Around it cluster all those happy memories, all those beautiful thoughts, all those hearth searching experiences, which go with the word "home". You have asked him, therefore, to pay you the compliment of taking you into one of the sacred places of his life, in hope that it will be, and the implied promise that if admitted it shall be, to you one of the sacred places of your life.

You asked not a stranger, but a friend for this. And his first reply was to direct you to express yourself as to your belief in God.

It does not take a very clever man to see that with such a beginning - the call of friendship, the sacredness of home, and the belief in God - Masonry is not a joke, not a foolish fun organization, not a club of "good fellows"; not an organization to join as one would a Board of Trade for business purposes. It is obvious to any one who thinks, that Masonry must be dignified, beautiful, impressive, that it must have a real meaning, a real part to play in a man's life.

If you have an enemy, make an effort to forgive him before you enter the portals of the Temple. If you have done a sin, do your best honestly to regret it before you pass through the West Gate. If you have wronged any one make up your mind to right the wrong; you will be the happier man later in the evening of your life if you do. Pray humbly and ask that it may be given to you to be a good Mason, to be a brother to others who will be brothers to you, a real workman in the quarry, erecting to Him a Temple not made with hands....

Mihailo O'Zdravkovic

THANKS

To just say thank you does not, in any way express how grateful I am for the cards, phone calls and visits that you Brothers and Ladies send to me and came to see me, while I was in the Hospital and recuperating in the rehab, and at home. I am on the way to recovery, thanks to my 24 hour nurse, Joyce. May God bless you all, and I hope to see you all very soon. Again, THANK YOU FROM THE BOTTOM of my heart.
Johnny Johnson

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

Average age = 72.143 years old
Oldest = 94 years old
Youngest = 25 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.

MARCH MADNESS

The Degrees keep happening... Mr. Dax Lynch is now a Brother and by the time you read this, Brother Adam Torres will be a Master Mason. Attend the Degrees, you won't be disappointed!

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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, 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

Scottish Rite Center

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



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APRIL 2007 CALENDAR

April

- Mon 2nd** Proficiency Night, 7:15 p.m.
- Thurs 5th** **STATED MEETING** at 7:30 p.m. Dinner at 6:30 p.m.
Reservations must call 619-291-0465. Business casual.
- Mon 9th** **THIRD DEGREE - Br. Sandoval - 7:15 p.m.**
- Thurs 12th** First Degree Practice - 6:45 p.m.
- Mon 16th** **FIRST DEGREES - (two) - 7:15 p.m.**
- Thurs 19th** Degree Practice - 6:45 p.m.
- Mon 23rd** ISI - 7:00 p.m. - All Officers to attend - 35 works EA First Section. Call Inspector 619-461-5724 if you need to be excused.
- Thurs 26th** **THIRD DEGREE - Br. Anderson - 7:15 p.m.**
- Mon 30th** **HIRAM AWARD PRESENTATION TO WB RICHARD SALDANO** - Dinner at 6:30 p.m. Please call for reservations 619-291-0465

May

- Thurs 3rd** **Stated Meeting** at 7:30 p.m. Dinner at 6:30 p.m.
Reservations please call 619-291-0465.
- Mon 7th** Family Dine Out

APRIL STATED MEETING DINNER MENU

Roasted Chicken and Honey Baked Ham
Mashed Potatoes and Gravy, Green Beans Almandine
Spring Mix Salad, Croissants
Pineapple Upside Down Cake
Beverages



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



GOLDEN VETERAN'S AWARD PRAYER AND PRESENTATION

An awesome accomplishment to have been a member of our wonderful Fraternity for 50 years. Congratulations to all those that have attained this mile post in their lives. Following are excerpts from the presentation ceremony:

Supreme Grand Master, Ruler of Heaven and Earth! We thank Thee for the many years which Thou has granted to our Brother. We thank Thee for life, health and strength, and daily provisions of Thy providence. Grant to our Brother many additional years of life. Be ever near to him, sustain and comfort him. Lead him in Thy ways, that he may have happiness and friendship all the days of his life. Amen.

MASTER: Brother _____, in recognition of your having been a member of a regular Lodge of Master Masons for more than half a century, and by direction of our Most Worshipful Grand Lodge, I am honored and privileged to present to you this visible token of the fraternal love and appreciation of your Brethren.

This Golden Veterans Award is but a small token of the esteem in which you are held and the affection with which you are regarded. The gold in this pin is used to signify 50 years of membership. The blue face alludes to a righteous conduct, as limitless as the vast expanse of the sky, which is so necessary to maintain that membership. The square and compass and the letter "G" etched on its face, are recognized as an emblem or insignia of our Masonic Fraternity.

It is emblematical of that purity of life and conduct which should be displayed by Masons whithersoever dispersed. It is a badge of merit and distinction which will cause your Brethren to recognize you as one who has long been devoted to the ideals of this Institution. This beautiful pin, we know, will be worn with pride. We sincerely hope that you will wear it with pleasure and honor to yourself and to the Fraternity.

3 + 1 = 3?

The Royal Arch degree was one of the major sticking points of the argument between the competing Antient and Modern

Grand Lodges in England in the late 1700s and early 1800s (see Chapter 2). The Antients considered the Royal Arch the completion of the Master Mason degree and included it in their lodge ceremonies. The Moderns thought the Royal Arch should be its own separate degree, governed not by the Grand Lodger but by a separate Grand Chapter. When the two sides finally buried the hatchet in 1813, the compromise was one of the most confusing agreements ever arrived at The Act of Union states

It is declared and pronounced that pure Ancient Masonry consists of three *degrees and* no more; viz: Those of the Entered Apprentice, the Fellow Craft and the Master Mason, including the Supreme Order of the Royal Arch.

Anyone who could count to four was very confused. Still, the agreement meant that lodges were allowed to form Royal Arch chapters and go on conferring the additional degrees, with the blessing -- and without the control -- of the Grand Lodge. In many English lodges, you're philosophically not considered to be a *true* Master Mason until you've received the Royal Arch degree.

SYMBOLS OF FREEMASONRY

Jacob's Ladder - In the book of Genesis 28, Jacob dreamed that he saw a ladder stretching from Earth to heaven, and angels climbed up and down it. In Masonry, the ladder is described as having three main rungs, representing faith, hope, and charity. Other rungs include temperance, fortitude, prudence and justice. Taken together, they are the guiding virtues of Freemasonry.

Anchor and Ark - In the lectures of Masonry, the anchor and the ark are combined as symbols of a well-spent life. The anchor is a symbol of hope, first appearing in the Christian catacombs, and alluding to St. Paul's message in Hebrews 5:19, describing hope as an "anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast." The ark (like Noah's boat) is an emblem of faith that will "waft us over the sea of troubles."

Three excerpts from *Freemasons for Dummies* by Christopher Hodapp.

An interesting volume to add to your library.

