



The Sprig of Acacia



Euclid Masonic Temple

27271 Tungsten Road

Euclid

Ohio

216-731-9857

Volume 6, Issue 3

Second and Fourth Fridays

May / June, 2009

"REACH" --- Grand Masters Program

From The East



Cecelia and I traveled almost 2500 miles, seeing some of our favorite places again, as well as visiting friends and our son and his wife. Having returned from a three-week vacation, leaving our SW in charge of the lodge for two meetings, we received a hint of the way things will be next year. Thank you Bob, great job!

We have some candidate work to do, even with the Grand Masters Class scheduled for June 13. We have candidates that have opted to receive their degrees in the traditional way, providing us the opportunity to complete our Grand Lodge requirements. Our degree director and his team already have their activities planned.

While there are still two months to go before summer break, we still have a few things planned and these two months will go FAST! Please plan to attend and bring a brother with you.

On the night of May 22, we will have a "Chili Cook-off". Please bring your favorite chili and enter our annual Chili Cook-off Contest (prizes will be rewarded to our winner). After "dinner" we will retire to the Lodge room for our Stated Meeting, where our D.D.G.M. will present this year's Grand Masters' program.

On June 12, 2009, we will be hosting a Table Lodge and reservations are required. Tickets will be sold at \$5.00 each for this special evening. Please see the Lodge Secretary or myself to reserve your seat. At 7:30 we will be opening a Lodge of Entered Apprentices for Table Instruction in the dining room. I am still deciding on a menu for this evening, IF you have a favorite dish, let me know, you may help me decide.

This year we will not give mugs to those who attend our Table Lodge but will provide each attendee with an engraved Masonic name badge if you purchase your ticket prior to June 1, 2009.

Don Ritchie
Worshipful Master

From the West



Hello Brethren,

I sure am happy the winter hold on us Northern Ohio residents is breaking its grip. Today is

FULL SUN and temps to about 60° F. Hallelujah. Easter was perfect.

I informed you in the last "From the West" article I was tired of Winter and heading south for a week. I did just that and had a wonderful time. The weather was perfect for me. Kathy was in Boca Raton with



Louis & Bobbie Sukalski, on Fishing Pier in Fort Myers Beach

her card playing girl friends and I visited with some Masonic Brothers and family in Florida. First stop was in Estero, Florida with

the Sukalski's. Lou and wife Bobbie were very hospitable. Went to the pool, fish market, site seeing, eating out and enjoying each others company. Lou is a member of Acacia Lodge from the Grand Masters One Day Class in 2002. He is also a school class mate of mine from Kindergarten through High School and we share the same birth date and hospital. Different Moms of course. Had a great time.

Next stop was with Worshipful Brother Ken Dornback and wife Judy. Ken is a Past Master of Acacia Lodge back in 1981 and 1985 when the Lodge was Silver Cord and Acacia Lodge respectively. Ken had some major health issues recently, and I am very pleased to say, Ken is recovering nicely and doing well in Cape Coral, Florida. Judy is planning on retirement soon and



Kenneth & Judy Dornback on their front yard in Cape Coral, Fla.

has plans for Ken during retirement. Don't be too rough on him Judy. While visiting with Ken & Judy, Ken and I drove up to N. Cape Coral to visit with

Worshipful Brother Charles A. Davis.

Worshipful Brother Davis was Master of Silver Cord Lodge in 1974. He appointed me Senior Stewart and the rest is history. Boy did he start me off on a Masonic path where I did not know what I was getting myself into. In retrospect it was, and is, a fun and delightful path. Chuck and wife Pat live in a golf community in N. Cape Coral. Charlie and Pat look good and Charlie golf's 3-4 times a week. He's too good for me. Spent a couple of hours visiting and taking pictures with their camera. Still waiting for the Snail-Mail photos. (I forgot to take my camera.)

Last stop was in Clermont, Florida, west of Orlando, to visit with our son Robert James and wife Nancy. Bob worked as a construction superintendent with a local Builder until being laid off just about one year ago. He is going back to school and doing odd jobs in the area. Nancy works for an employment testing facility that grades test papers on a massive scale. They have one baby, a German Shepard that serves just as much as their own child. Praying that Bob finds a good job soon.

Well, that was my time in Florida. If you live in Florida, or other US State, and would like to share what has been happening in your life, E-Mail me, rhjb@sbcglobal.net or call 440-248-3497 and I just might stop by to say Hello and bring you personal greetings from the Lodge. But, I'll call in advance to let you know I'm in the area.

The Worshipful Master is planning some very enjoyable events prior to the Summer Masonic break at the end of June. I am sure he will tell you about them.

Don't Forget, Acacia lodge meets the second and fourth Fridays of each month, with the exception of

July and August. We would enjoy seeing you again.

Robert J. Hibjan, SW
E-Mail: rhjb@sbcglobal.net
Let me know how you're doing.

"If you don't read the newspaper you are uninformed, if you do read the newspaper you are misinformed." Mark Twain

Be mindful of your thoughts, for they become words.
Be mindful of your words, for they become actions.
Be mindful of your actions, for they become habits.
Be mindful of your habits, as they become character.
Be mindful of your character, as it becomes your destiny!

Secretary's Corner



We need your help in keeping our member database current. Please remember to tell us when you move. Contact me by phone (440) 257-6964, snail mail or email

coganj@sbcglobal.net

Your Lodge Secretary, James R. Cogan, P.M.



In Memorium

Brother	Passed
Wor. Bro. Roger Beck	03-14-2009
Bro. Michael Turjanica	04-04-2009
<i>They rest from their labors.</i>	

"Vision is the art of seeing things invisible." - Jonathan Swift

Synopsis of the Grand Secretary's Newsletter

April 2009 – Newsletter:

- Grand Master's One-Day Class is scheduled for June 13th; petitions have to be handled in the usual manner. The petitions have to be given to DDGM's by May 23rd.
- The Grand Secretary and Grand Treasurer will be retiring this year.

- For the LEO there is a new Candidate Mentor Program – Our LEO will review it and advise the Lodge if we should adopt it for future candidates.
- On February 7th three lodges from three different districts joined together to be inspected in each of the three degrees. This may have been the first time this occurred within the state of Ohio.
- The Deputy Grand Master’s program for 2009 – 2010 will be rolled out on Saturday, June 27th for the 22nd and 25th districts at 1:00 PM at the Chagrin Falls Masonic Facility. All line officers should plan to attend.
- By order of the Grand Lodge Ritual Committee, an “Aid to the Notes, Instructions, & Rubrics of the Official Cypher and Standard Monitor” has been created and is now available for \$5. This aid presents all the enciphered ritual instructions in plain English and it will prove a useful tool for any Brother learning the ritual.

Did you know?

A **jiffy** is an actual unit of time for 1/200th of a second.

A **gnat’s eye** is not a real unit? Sorry, it is a slang unit of length. The eyes of typical gnats tend to have diameters similar in size to hair’s breadth: about 100 to 150 micrometers.

A **hogshead** is a real British unit of volume for wine and beer. For wine, a hogshead is 63 gallons. On the other hand, a hogshead of beer is only 54 gallons.

A typical **lightning bolt** is two to four inches wide and two miles long.

Though 10 is the highest number for **earthquake measurement**, 9 is estimated to be the point of total tectonic destruction. The Smallest that can be felt by a human is a 2.

Grand Masters Class!

On June 13, 2009 the Grand Master will have a one day class for all individuals considering becoming masons. throughout the state of Ohio. This class will allow perspective Masons to receive all three degrees in one day. This is an option that can be offered to Acacia Lodge candidates, but it is the candidate’s responsibility to indicate whether or not they wish to attend a one day class or receive their degrees in their own lodge.

Time is running out and you will need to get your petition in as soon as possible. They have to turned in to the DDGM’s by May 23rd.

Should you know of an individual who would like to become a Mason please contact James Cogan at 440-257-6964 or email him at coganj@sbcglobal.net for a petition.

A government which robs Peter to pay Paul can always depend on the support of Paul. George Bernard Shaw

My Dear Brethren,

Several months ago we held our annual inspection that was a great gathering of 75 quality men. We are sorry you missed this incredible assembly. Many of us, who participated and are involved in our beloved fraternity, ponder why we don’t have more brothers attending these special evenings.

We hope that you will take a few minutes and let us know why you seldom come to Acacia Lodge. We have heard from many of you through the years expressing valid reasons for not attending. We want to take this time to let you know that your past concerns and comments have been addressed resulting in a new and improved lodge. If you have not been to lodge for awhile, you will be pleasantly surprised at the outcome of your comments. An example of some of the changes based on your comments are:

- Our ritual work received high marks in the annual competition and is well respected in our district.
- Over the last two years we have had nine new petitions. Our candidates are younger adults who are also taking a leadership role in becoming capable officers.
- We have music by talented brothers.
- Stewards with a culinary flair who refresh us at every meeting.
- We provide transportation for brothers who cannot drive.
- We are financially stable.
- We have a full line of officers with some waiting to take their turn at leading our lodge.

These are just a few reasons why we are a strong, active Lodge. You might enjoy an evening in our lodge as compared to (the boob tube) television.

We have just installed cable in our home. Now we have 97 stations of exciting choices like, 20 Sexiest Men and Women, Ugly Betty, How to Lose Weight, endless News programs, court programs, Dr. Phil, reruns of Law and Order, NCIS and Murder She Wrote. I can't wait till lodge nights where each night offers something different. No one is shot, robbed or possessed. We are out by 10 PM, enjoy refreshments and home by 11:00 completely relaxed, ready for a goodnight's sleep with a clean mind from the moral lessons just learned in your lodge of Freemasons.

In closing my brethren, there is some enjoyment for you in the Temple on Tungsten Road every 2nd and 4th Friday. We'll be there to greet you. Consider joining us on one of these dates and see the changes for yourself.

Fraternally,
Tom E. Daly Jr., KYCH

L.E.O.'s Ledger – By Bro. Craig Niederriter:

Benjamin Franklyn's List of Virtues.

Personal Virtues

Temperance: Eat not to dullness; drink not to elevation.

Order: Let all your things have their places; let each part of your business have its time.

Resolution: Resolve to perform what you ought; perform without fail what you resolve.

Frugality: Make no expense but to do good to others or yourself; i.e., waste nothing.

Moderation: Avoid extremes; forbear resenting injuries so much as you think they desire.

Industry: Lose no time; be always employed in something useful; cut off all unnecessary actions.

Cleanliness: Tolerate no uncleanness in body, clothes, or habitation.

Tranquility: Be not disturbed at trifles, or at accidents common or unavoidable.

Social Virtues

Silence: Speak no but what may benefit others or yourself; avoid trifling conversation.

Sincerity: Use no hurtful deceit; think innocently and justly, and, if you speak, speak accordingly.

Justice: Wrong none by doing injuries, or omitting the benefits that are your duty.

Chastity: Rarely use venery but for health or offspring, never to dullness, weakness, or the injury of your own or another's peace or reputation.

Humility: Imitate Jesus and Socrates.

Need a Ride?

If you are in need of a ride to come to lodge please call Jim Cogan at 440-257-6964 and arrangements will be made to pick you up. This is my home phone; please leave a message if I don't pick up when you call.

Government's view of the economy could be summed up in a few short phrases: If it moves, tax it. If it keeps moving, regulate it. And if it stops moving, subsidize it. Ronald Reagan (1986)

Newsletter Editor and Information

Editor: James R. Cogan – 440-257-6964

Email: coganj@sbcglobal.net

Lodge Website: www.acacia651.org

If you would like to receive your Lodge Newsletter by email please send your email address to the editor.

Deep Observations On Life

1. "Why does Sea World have a seafood restaurant?? I'm halfway through my fish burger and I realize, Oh my God.... I could be eating a slow learner."
--Lynda Montgomery
2. "Sometimes I think war is God's way of teaching us geography."
--Paul Rodriguez
3. "My parents didn't want to move to Florida, but they turned sixty and that's the law."
--Jerry Seinfeld
4. "Remember in elementary school, you were told that in case of fire you have to line up quietly in a single file line from smallest to tallest. What is the logic in that? What, do tall people burn slower?"
--Warren Hutcherson
5. "Bigamy is having one wife/husband too many. Monogamy is the same."
--Oscar Wilde
6. "Suppose you were an idiot ... And suppose you were a member of Congress... But I repeat myself."
--Mark Twain
7. "Our bombs are smarter than the average high school student. At least they can find Afghanistan." --A. Whitney Brown

8. "You can say any foolish thing to a dog, and the dog will give you a look that says, 'My God, you're right! I never would've thought of that!'"
--Dave Barry

Acacia Lodge Officers

2008 – 2009

- W. M.** - Don Ritchie, P.M., 216-731-3030, dritchie@dr.com
- S. W.** - Robert J. Hibjan, PDDGM, 440-248-3497, rhib@sbcglobal.net
- J. W.** - Mark Novak, 216-406-5856, man0579@aol.com
- S. D.** - Ted Daly, P.M., 440-974-1185, tdaly@oh.rr.com
- J. D.** - Jeffrey W. Heston, 216-289-9674, deeworld42@yahoo.com
- S. S.** - John Wood, 216-341-3673
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- Tyler** -
- Secretary** - James R. Cogan, P.M., 440-257-6964, coganj@sbcglobal.net
- Treasurer** - N. Allen Paynter, P.M., 216-381-0614, mrclean274@aol.com
- Chaplain** - Tom Daly Jr. P.M., 440-942-9426, tomedalyjr@netzero.net
- L.E.O.** - Craig A. Niederriter, 440-884-1367, lowhorseman@aol.com
- Marshall** - Steven K. Gregory, 440-946-0080
- Lecture Dir.** - Tom Daly Jr. P.M., 440-942-9426, tomedalyjr@netzero.net

TRESTLE-BOARD

All stated meeting start at 7:30 PM unless otherwise indicated

- May 8 Stated Meeting – the Mothers Day Program for this evening is cancelled.
- May 22 Stated Meeting – Chili cook off” – At 6:30 PM and the DDGM Program
- June 12 Stated Meeting – Table Lodge – Dinner at 6:00 PM tickets needed contact WB Jim Cogan 440-257-6964 or WM Don Ritchie 216-731-3030
- June 13 Grand Masters Class
- June 26 Stated Meeting – Past Masters Night – FC Degree

Special Dates:

- May 10 Mother’s Day
 May 16 Armed Forces Day
 May 25 Memorial Day
 June 14 Flag Day
 June 21 Father’s Day
 July 4 Independence Day

New Candidates are needed and welcome – help us make a good man better

A man who works

A man who works with his hands is a *laborer*.

A man who works with his hands and mind is a *craftsman*.

A man who works with his hands, mind and heart is an *artist*

But a man who works with his hands, mind, heart and *soul* is a **Freemason**.

So mote it be.

THE SYMBOLISM OF THE APPROACH TO THE MIDDLE CHAMBER

In its Companion to the Monitor the Grand Lodge of Iowa explains this fully. The following excerpts are illustrative:

"The journey to the Middle Chamber is based upon a legend connected with the building of King Solomon's Temple. Like most Masonic teaching it is symbolic; and if you would profit by its lessons and apply them to the building and beautifying of your own Spiritual Temple, you must really work as a Speculative Mason...

"It is said that at the building of the Temple, Fellowcrafts met in the Middle Chamber on the evening of the sixth day of every week to receive their wages. None but worthy craftsmen were admitted, and these were invested with certain mysterious signs, tokens, and words, by means of which they were able to pass the guards....

"The journey (to the Middle Chamber) is an allegory, a symbol of the journey of life and the reward for faithful living....

"In our journey from the quarries to the Middle Chamber, we are now within the precincts of the Temple, and before us is the beautiful arched gateway which leads to the inner court. Passing through this gateway, we come to the porch and the entrance of the Temple, where you observe two brazen pillars, one on the right hand, the other on the left, called Jachin and Boaz...

"We have considered the names Boaz and Jachin as meaning strength and establishment. An equally good translation of the word Boaz is power, and of the word Jachin, wisdom or control...

"Masonry conducts you between these pillars and earnestly recommends them to your attention. We hope that you may draw from them inspiration for your journey to the Middle Chamber of life. You need the things they typify; power—physical, mental, and moral strength to stand for the right, strength on occasion to say "No"; control—that your power may not be wasted but bring only good to yourself and to your fellows; wisdom—to make the right decisions in the issues of life from day to day....

"If with strength comes wisdom, if with power comes control, you may confidently hope to reach your Middle Chamber and receive wages....

"There is nothing in the Biblical description of the Pillars... to indicate that they were surmounted by Globes; but Masons of modern times have added them, delineating on one the divisions of the earth and on the other the heavenly bodies...

"Hence the Globes denote the universality of Masonry and teach us so to regulate our lives that when we pass from earth, the terrestrial, it may be to that other and better world, the celestial....

"In our symbolic journey we have reached a flight of winding stairs (consisting of three, five, and seven steps). In a symbolic sense you are now preparing for your life work, and the stairs represent the means by which you are to climb from the depths of your earthly nature to the heights of a moral and spiritual life....

"A winding stairway is one to try a man's soul... You can see only to the next turning, perhaps only one step in

advance. You will need to keep the Pillars constantly in mind as symbols of your faith, for you cannot see the Middle Chamber; you must depend upon your faith, that there is" a Middle Chamber. Once started, there can be no return; and as the Worshipful Master informed you, it will be necessary that you make the regular advance; none other will serve. It is only by your own honest effort that you can climb the stairs. And then, no matter how hard you try, you may never reach the Middle Chamber of your boyhood dreams. The stairway is long, and the Angel of Death may be just out of sight around the corner...

"The Pillars we may consider as symbols of our faith in God, and the Three Steps teach that we are dependent on Him and that our first care should be to harmonize our will with His and build our Temple agreeably to the Divine plan....

"By the five steps you are taught to use Order in the architecture of your Temple and to improve yourself by a rational development of all your natural powers.

"The seven steps symbolized that the crowning glory of man is the development of mind and spirit your destiny as an immortal being requires you to ascend step by step until you reach the summit where the treasures of Truth await you. Unless you have acquired the secret signs, tokens, and words of the faithful Craftsman by putting into daily practice the moral and spiritual teachings found in the Great Light of Masonry, you cannot pass the inner door to the place of wages."

Words to live by: **"Past experience should be a guide post, not a hitching post."** Unknown

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