



The Sprig of Acacia



Euclid Masonic Temple

27271 Tungsten Road

Euclid

Ohio

216-731-9857

Volume 6, Issue 6

Second and Fourth Fridays

November / December, 2009

"REACH" --- Grand Masters Program

From The East



As I reach the end of my year it is a bittersweet experience. I am glad to see the end of a successful year but sad that I did not complete everything I wanted to in such a short span of time. We experienced the joy of good friends, Brothers and family during the various dinners and special events over the past 12 months. It is with a proud voice that I say we have six new Master Masons who were raised during my year, and two candidates working their way toward this end.

We will have our Annual Meeting and Election of Officers on November 13th. It is good to see the strength of our line and the dedication of our younger officers. I would like to see our new Master Masons take a role in this Lodge's operation. Some may wish to join our line of Officers; others may wish to take part in one of the many committees needed to make our Lodge successful; others may be content on the sidelines enjoying our Lodge, its many programs and great degree work. Whatever choice you make as a Master Mason make sure you choose what is best for you, your family and our fraternity.

Our Lodge will continue to be successful and you are needed to accomplish and ensure this very important goal. Please think about what your strengths are and how you can apply them to the betterment of this great fraternity. Help is always needed as a line officer, mentor, educator, helper, and bystander. Think about what you can do to help us continue to work at this level of excellence.

I want to thank all the brethren who worked so hard to help me make this past year a success and am eternally humbled at being able to serve you and this fantastic lodge as it's Worshipful Master.

I remain your humble servant and dedicated brother,

Don Ritchie
Worshipful Master

Special Notice – Our By-Laws have been changed - Meeting will not be held on the day after Thanksgiving or during the week of Christmas.

Important Notice:

It is that time of year when you are requested to pay your annual dues for the 2009 – 2010 Masonic year. We have endowed members who are not required to pay any dues but we respectfully ask that you pay our per capital fees and help support a number of charities. Any member not endowed will have to pay their annual dues before our annual meeting or you will not be allowed to attend lodge. If you are facing financial problems during these difficult times please call the Lodge Secretary, 440-257-6964.

From the West



Well summer is sure over. Just go outside for awhile, that is if you are living in North Ohio. It seems like we lost Fall in Ohio, just went from Summer to Winter. Oh Well, that's Cleveland.

The Annual communication of the Grand Lodge was October 16-17, 2009 in Toledo and attended by me and W.B. Donald Ritchie, WM; W.B. James Cogan, Sec; W.B. Robert Roffe, Trustee; Bro. Craig Niederriter, LEO; and Bro. Tonie Willoughby, J.S.. I will be reporting on the Grand Lodge Communication legislation at the October 23, 2009 stated meeting. The new Grand Master is MWB Terry Posey from the Dayton area, and the new Deputy Grand Master is RWB Brad Goebel from our district. Some legislation was approved and others voted down. If you are interested in what happened, E-Mail me your request and I will send you a synopsis

This time of year brings us County and Local elections in your home area and our lodge is no different. At our November 13, 2009 stated meeting we will be having our Annual State of the Lodge meeting and Election of Lodge Officers for 2009-2010. This is your opportunity to exercise your greatest privilege in Lodge, your VOTE. If you have not been to Lodge this 2009 year, you are summoned to appear on November 13th to exercise your privilege to VOTE.

The Lodge Annual Installation of Officers will be held on Friday December 11, 2009 with a Dinner scheduled for 6:15pm. Reservations are a must. We will only sell 100 dinner tickets at a cost of \$8.00 per reservation. You will not be able to have a dinner like the one we will have anywhere in Ohio for this price. **No dinner tickets will be sold at the door on Installation Day.** Call me early for reservations at 440.248.3497 or our Lodge Secretary Jim Cogan at 440.257.6964.

The Acacia Lodge Children's Christmas Party will be held on Saturday, December 19, 2009 at the Euclid Masonic Center on Tungsten Road in Euclid, Ohio. Children to 13 years of age will meet Santa Claus and receive a Christmas present. Please review the "Christmas Party" article in this news letter and respond with your Children's ages and your intention of attending the party. We need attendance totals for adults and children. "Flower" the multi-talented Balloon Clown will be present to entertain all in attendance. This Christmas Party is for Acacia Lodge members, their Family and Non-Masonic friends that may have interest in our Fraternity.

While Kathy and I were attending an October 3, 2009 Masonic Event in Springfield, Ohio at the Ohio Masonic Home, we took time to look up and visit with Worshipful Brother Richard Spotts, a Past Master of Acacia Lodge. See picture. We had a wonderful and fun visit. WB Spotts loves to receive mail and visits. If you are in the area or just would like to write to him, he is located in the Rickley Building at the Ohio Masonic Home, Springfield, Ohio.



January 22, 2010 is our Membership Awards Night for 25, 35, 40, 50, 60 and 60+ years of service in our great Fraternity. A \$5.00 dinner will be served at 6:15pm followed by the program at 7:30pm. This event is open to Mason's, their Ladies and Non-Masonic guests. Bring the Family, especially if you will be receiving one of the Membership Awards. They are very proud of you, and so are we.

Since our Lodge just attained its 90th Birthday on October 17, 2009, look forward to seeing future

information on our 90th Anniversary Party scheduled for Saturday, April 10, 2010 at Sterles County Place in Cleveland, Ohio. A fun time is being planned for all.

A very active and fun 2010 Acacia Lodge Masonic Year is being planned for you and your family, so add to the enjoyment of all and attend.

You're Lodge Officers and members would love to see you at one, or all, of the above lodge functions. Make your commitment now and mark your calendar.

Kathy and I would like to wish for you and your Family a Very blessed Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukah and Happy New Year.

Fraternally,

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

"Every day holds the possibility of a miracle." - Elizabeth David

Help Needed:

As the new Secretary for Acacia Lodge one of the hardest tasks I have is to keep the addresses for our members current. With our brethren living in thirty-one (31) states, not including the overseas addresses, we have lost track of some of our members. I have listed the names of our brethren for whom I do not have a current address. If you have an address for any of these brothers please call, 440-257-6964 or email me, coganj@sbcglobal.net with the current information as soon as possible.

- | | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| William H. Jones | Charles J. Lantz |
| Glen A. Shaw | Michael Jundi |
| Lawrence Twigger | David Fordham Jr. |

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
Brother Richard F. Smail	08-06-2009
Brother Donald L. Paul	01-30-2009
<i>They rest from their labors.</i>	

Help!

In one of our obligations, we are admonished to take care of our widows and orphans. To this end, we would like to have a dinner in honor of the widows of our deceased brethren of Acacia Lodge. Should you know of an Acacia Lodge widow please call or email:

Secretary 440-257-6964

coganj@sbcglobal.net

Senior Warden 440-248-3497

rhib@sbcglobal.net

Provide the name, address and phone number so we can establish an active database and invite them to a recognition dinner next year.

NOTICE TO ALL BRETHREN

At our October 9th meeting we approved the following Resolution change:

RESOLUTIONS

1. All checking accounts, savings accounts, any Certificates of Deposit (CD's) and Money Market Accounts of Acacia Lodge #651 shall be carried with an accredited commercial bank (not with a brokerage firm) that is insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) and located within the Continental United States. This shall include any and all demand and time deposits.

Should you have any questions please contact WM Don Ritchie, 216-731-3030 or James Cogan, Secretary, 440-257-6964

Brethren,

In previous writings, I've given you some of my Masonic background to indicate that I may have some credibility behind my opinions. My writings were based on what I perceived to be essential action for the success of lodges. To name a few: good ritual work, music, inexpensive dinners, planned meetings, inter lodge visitations and especially participation.

These that are mentioned are somewhat obvious to those who travel, but even those who supposedly are aware of the necessities are even lax of an important fact.

I'll use our lodge name to lay the foundation of what I'm trying to put across:

- A – Awareness
- C – Concern
- A – Acknowledgement
- C – Credit
- I – Inspire
- A – Appreciation

Much emphasis is spent on how we always must impress and make great effort for a new candidate. I pose the question? How about those who are doing the work. How about your officers, deputies, candidate, councilors, education officers, stewards to name a few.

A soft personal comment from one brother to another, I feel would go a long way. "Brother, your exam of your candidate was very good", "It was obvious you did a good job as coach." Or "Right Worshipful, how grateful our district should be for you dedicating 3 years for our fraternity."

Brethren, become aware of what is going on in your lodge and district. These dedicated brothers are not being paid, remember this - we are a voluntary organization.

In my opinion, we should keep it personal as opposed to standing up in lodge and making it a big deal. The last thought you have in your mind should not be, "it's his job and he took on the obligation."

I'm no chef but I think this is food for thought!

A pat on the back goes a long way. We're in this together. Acknowledgements create admiration, cohesion, inspiration and advancement.

Fraternally,

Tom Daly

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.

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.

More Light! - Number 239 – August 24, 2009

Dear Masonic Student, There are times when questions will come up in Lodge about ritual: Why is it important; why is there a difference in the ritual from one jurisdiction to another; which of these varied rituals is the correct version, and why don't we all just use that correct version? The following attempts to answer those kinds of questions; this information comes from the Minnesota Counselor's guide from the Grand Lodge of Minnesota. I hope you find it interesting and informative. Ed

WHY IS MASONIC RITUAL REGARDED AS SO IMPORTANT?

Truth may be taught without ritual, but truth taught by ritual is always taught as the original teachers desired and makes a lasting impression upon the mind of the learner.

Man has always devised ceremonies of initiation for his organizations; the Men's House of the Indians had them; savage tribes bring their young men officially to manhood by rites which are sometimes rather terrible; ancient religions admitted to the temple only those who could qualify by successfully completing a course of initiation; many modern churches — especially those denominated "high" - have set forms for religious worship; crafts and guilds of all kinds in all ages have had certain preparatory rites.

A ritual which becomes sacrosanct in human belief tends to stabilize truth and to keep it uncontaminated by "modern" ideas. Many a man has thought he could "improve" the ritual of Freemasonry. None has succeeded in making better that which was already "best," since its content was and is living, breathing, sentient truth, conveyed in words, action and symbols which by their very antiquity prove that they are "best" for the purpose.

Dr. Joseph Fort Newton, beloved teacher of the spiritual aspects of Freemasonry, said: "Ritual is the dramatization of belief, hope and spiritual dream. It assists imagination by giving form to what otherwise would remain formless, presenting vivid mental images which lend a reality - - feeling to what is often abstract and unreal. It is picture philosophy, truth visualized, at once expressing and confirming the faiths and visions of the mind."

WHY ARE MASONIC RITUALS NOT THE SAME IN ALL STATES?

Freemasonry came to the United States from several different sources (England, Ireland, Scotland) and in its spread westward formed Grand Lodges from Lodges which sprang from the thirteen original colonies. These admixtures of rituals produced variations which were occasionally increased by actions of Grand Lodges acting on recommendations of Grand Lecturers and Ritual Committees. In the early days of Freemasonry in the United States many "traveling lecturers" brought their own conceptions of "the true Masonic work" to far areas and taught them.

All rituals are "correct". What a Grand Lodge approves as its ritual is "correct" for its Lodges. No rituals in the United States contradict each other; they vary in words and details, not in essentials.

More Light – Mehr Licht ©, Masonic Matters © and T.F.S. ©,

Refdesk: Crossword Resources,
<http://www.refdesk.com/crosswr.html>

Refdesk's Crossword Resources page provides links to over seventy of the most popular crossword sites on the Internet.

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,
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- S. D.** - Ted Daly, P.M., 440-974-1185,
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- S. S.** - John Wood, 216-341-3673
- J. S.** - Tonie Willoughby, 440-842-4223,
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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

God does not ask your ability, or your inability. He asks only your availability.

- Mary Kay Ash

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1. How Do Crazy People Go Through The Forest? They Take the Psycho Path
 2. How Do You Get Holy Water? You Boil The Hell Out Of It
 3. What Do Fish Say When They Hit a Concrete Wall? Dam!
 4. What Do Eskimos Get From Sitting on The Ice too long? Polaroid's
 5. What Do You Call a Boomerang That Doesn't work? A Stick
 6. What Do You Call Cheese That Isn't Yours? Nacho Cheese.
 7. What Do You Call Santa's Helpers? Sub ordinate Clauses.
 8. What Do You Get From a Pampered Cow? Spoiled Milk.
 9. What Do You Get When You Cross a Snowman With a Vampire? Frostbite.



ACACIA LODGE #651
 Come one come all
 Christmas Party



What: Acacia Lodge's
 Christmas Party

When: December 19, 2009
 from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM

Where: Euclid Masonic
 Temple, 27271 Tungsten
 Road, Euclid, Ohio

RSVP – by December 11th to WM Robert J. Hibjan and Lady Kathy at 440-248-3497 with the number of adults, children, grandchildren or great-grandchildren, nieces or nephews, age and gender (Santa wants to make sure that he has the right gift for the children 13 yrs old and younger.)

Special Guest appearance by the man from the north.

Pizza, food, ice cream, drinks, entertainment, and more!!!!!!

Please bring a desert to share with everyone!

THE LODGE WHERE I BELONG

Though my Lodge may lack the splendor
 Of a temple or a shrine,
 Or possess the gaudy fixtures
 That are classed as superfine—
 Yet the fellowship it offers
 Is in price beyond compare
 And I wouldn't trade it ever
 For life's treasures—rich or rare!

The hand-clasp firm, the word of cheer,
 Oh, such meanings they impart:
 The mystic ties of brotherhood
 That links us, heart to heart!
 You'd really have to travel far,
 For the friendships quite so strong
 As those one always finds right here
 In the lodge where I belong.

When all my earthly travels end,
 And at last I'm borne to rest
 Where mortal hands no longer toil
 And I cease life's endless quest
 Why there's nothing I'd like better—
 Should I join the heavenly throng—
 Than to meet with all the brothers
 Of the Lodge where I belong!

ARTHUR R. HERRMAN

TRESTLE-BOARD

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

- Nov. 13 Stated Meeting – Annual Meeting and Memorial Night
- Nov. 14 Past Masters Convocation – 2:00 PM at 3615 Euclid Ave. – All officers should attend
- Nov. 15 Installation Practice – 2:00 PM
- Nov. 27 No Meeting – (By-Laws change)
- Dec. 11 Stated Meeting – Installation of Officers – Dinner at 6:15 with reservation to RWB Hibjan (440) 248-3497 or WB Cogan (440) 257-6964.
- Dec. 19 Annual Christmas Party – 1 to 4 PM – Refreshments, entertainment and the Man from the North with gifts
- Dec. 25 No Meeting – (By-Laws change)

Special Dates:

- Nov. 1 Day Light Savings Time Ends
- Nov. 3 Election Day
- Nov. 11 Veteran's
- Nov. 26 Thanksgiving
- Dec. 7 Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
- Dec. 12 – 19 Chanukah
- Dec. 25 Christmas
- Dec. 31 New Years Eve
- Jan. 1 New Years Day

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

"We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit." - Aristotle

"You can never do a kindness too soon, for you never know how soon it will be too late."

What Is Freemasonry?

By M.W. Brother Dewey W. Goldstein

Try to define it. Freemasonry is a sublime effort on the part of Masons to give living proof to the world that all men are brothers. The best definitions are inadequate. Then describe Freemasonry. It is Understanding, Tolerance, Love, Hope, Reverence and Charity, all working through men who believe in the nobility of mankind, in the God-made destiny of men, and in the final triumph of good over evil.

Our description is inadequate. Freemasonry is the cable-tow that joins the hearts of Masons. It is felt in prosperity; it tugs at the heart of the brother in distress and at the heart of the brother who answers the call of distress. Freemasonry is a Spirit that goes with a handshake. It is the mystery of Love, the silent working of Nature. It is God's justice administered by men who know God's mercy.

Freemasonry is that which brings sweet tears to the eyes of a father when his son knocks at the inner door.

Have we described Freemasonry? No, but there is something else to add:

Freemasonry is that which dictators despise.
More Light – Mehr Licht ©, Masonic Matters © and T.F.S. ©,

James R. Cogan
6130 Thistlewood Drive
Mentor OH 44060



Today

By M.W. Brother Dewey H. Wollstein

Today I will meet life with a renewed courage.

Today I will put to work the philosophy that I have adopted, the religion that I claim.

Today I will think more of my blessings and less of my troubles.

Today I will speak a good word of another, the word that I failed to speak yesterday.

Today I will stop long enough to speak to a child.

Today I will ask God to give something to somebody else. The other fellow is struggling too.

Today I will place a sentinel over my mouth and guard my words.

Today I will try to be the man that I am capable of being.

Today I will elevate myself morally and spiritually by acts of love, by expressions of friendships, by thoughts of man's possibilities.

Today I will try to be a creature fashioned in the image of the Creator.

Today I will give something back to life for the privilege of life.



