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Message From The East



Coil's Masonic Encyclopedia states: "...for many persons, the First Degree was the whole substance of Freemasonry, and this early preeminence of that degree persists in England even to the present day; for the Entered Apprentice's lodge is *the* lodge, that is, the place where all business of the Craft is transacted. For the conferring of other degrees, the Entered Apprentice's lodge is called *up* to the Fellow Craft or Master's Degree and called *down* again when the work is completed. But just the opposite system developed in America, where the Master's lodge became predominant and the Entered Apprentice's lodge became merely a meeting for degree work. The first Degree confers no privilege, except that of attending a lodge of that degree and witnessing the work on other candidates." (*Coil's Masonic Encyclopedia*, revised edition, 1995, page 188)

There appears to be no clear explanation why the Grand Lodges in the United States adopted the policy of requiring business to be conducted in the Master Mason Degree. There is speculation that it was introduced as a reaction to the high anti-Masonic feelings of the 1820's and 1830's to prevent opponents to Masonry from infiltrating meetings by having business done only in lodges open in the MM degree. Or that the additional time spent by a candidate leading up to the MM degree would show the lodge his willingness and sincerity in becoming a Mason. But neither explanation is convincing, since it was in the 1840's that Grand Lodges required that business in lodges be conducted in the MM degree, and if someone was insincere when he took the EA degree he would not be any more sincere when taking the FC and MM degrees.

There are many benefits to allowing an Entered Apprentice to attend Lodge as soon as he is eligible to do so. If EAs can attend and participate in lodge business, their interest and knowledge may increase earlier and they will be more likely to continue as active Masons. We have been calling newly obligated EAs 'Brother', welcoming them to our fraternity, but at the same time rebuffing them by keeping them from meetings. This is not a very fraternal way of treating a man who was just told how much he is appreciated, and then denied of fellowship. We need to take advantage of the enthusiasm that a new member possesses. Their attendance would provide opportunities for the older members to become better acquainted with the newer members. Tapping into that enthusiasm could revive and reinvigorate our own flagging interest.

Fraternally yours,
Henry G. Mankowski
Worshipful Master

Past Masters Night

Our candidate for Past Masters Night, held June 17, 2004, was Bro. Matthew Newberry. Bro. Newberry, who was raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason, is the son of Wor. Bro. Roger Newberry and grandson of Wor. Bro. Alan Silver.

The evening began at 5:15 p.m. with the conferring of the first section of the degree. After dinner, according to a time-honored tradition at University Heights Lodge, the Past Masters conferred the second section of the degree and presented the lecture, demonstrating their ability to recall the ritual and perform the work in their own inimitable fashion. Bro. Newberry was further delighted by the explanation of his family's long history of

Continued on Page 2

Rays From University Heights Lodge



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Bro. Harry Zeid Is Mason Of The Year

On May 20, 2004, University Heights Lodge conferred its annual Mason of the Year Award. Wor. Bro. Henry Mankowski opened the night of celebration and then introduced the Charity Committee chairman, Wor. Bro. Jeffrey A. Kaplan, who recognized several worthy organizations selected to receive donations this year.

Most Worshipful Brother Steven J. Krekus, Grand Master of Masons in Ohio, honored our Lodge with his attendance. Friendly and sincere, MWB Krekus was introduced by Right Worshipful Brother Richard A. Fromson. Among many other festivities, MWB Krekus was made an honorary member of University Heights Lodge, and was presented with a donation to the Grand Lodge Charitable Fund in his honor.

The Ill. & Rt. Wor. Bro. Joseph H. Silbert Mason of the Year Award, named in memory of the founder of our Lodge, is given to a brother who exemplifies a love of Masonry and has endeavored to improve the Lodge. Wor. Bro. Dennis Linden, chairman of the evening, gave a history of the Mason of the Year Award, and called the roll of the past recipients to assemble.

This year's recipient, Bro. Harry Zeid, has been an active Mason for fifteen years. A mainstay on the Fellow Craft Team and chairman of the Sunshine Committee, Bro. Zeid was surprised and thrilled to find his entire family in attendance, including his wife Florence, son Bro. Gary Zeid and his wife Kathy, as well as granddaughter Jodi and her husband Bro. Larry Solomon. Wor. Bro. Linden was assisted in presenting the award by Wor. Bro. Mankowski, MWB Krekus, and RWB John Whitehouse, who also graciously attended, as did RWB Brad Goebel, Junior Grand Deacon, and RWB Donald Scherer, Grand Tyler.

The evening was well-attended by the brethren, their ladies, visiting Masons, and guests. All were entertained by the Orange Cabaret Troupe, who performed a delightful set of familiar songs, and were then treated to a gourmet dessert reception from Bradley's to top off a wonderfully festive evening.

Past Masters Night *(continued)*

Masonry, which dates back to his great-great grandfather in New York, and by the gifts presented by his father and grandfather. Among them was a watch that belonged to his great grandfather, who presided as the Worshipful Master of his lodge.

All the brethren agreed they had witnessed an entertaining presentation. For Bro. Newberry, it was an event he is likely to never forget.

A Message from the West

University Heights Lodge has been blessed with very good resources in its 52-year existence. In this time membership has grown and we have developed a very sound financial base from which to operate the Lodge, conduct and expand social activities, and to provide charitable support in the community. Growing membership and sound investments are two resources that we should all be thankful for, but these resources are not the cornerstone of our lodge.

Our cornerstone and greatest resource is the spirit of brotherhood with which we are imbued. Rich in spirit and heritage, we dedicate ourselves to charity and human kindness. As we are also rich in energy and enthusiasm, I believe our other successes have been built upon the strong foundation of Masonic brotherhood that we carry within our hearts.

Our brethren have stood together as they formed a lodge, survived wars, and weathered recessions. They have been there for each other during times of joy and times of sorrow. Today, the true joy of fellowship is shared by all of us when we greet each other before meetings and enjoy refreshments after. These moments are most important, but they are often missed opportunities that could have been shared with our newest brethren.

Each new brother in the Lodge brings the responsibility for us to welcome them into the workings of the lodge as soon as possible. Our ritual tells them that they are Masons as soon as they take the obligation as an Entered Apprentice, yet we often struggle to find ways to immediately involve them.

For any Lodge to truly thrive, the Brethren must be instilled with an abiding belief in the principles of Masonry. As it literally takes years of mentorship, discussion, and discovery to help a new Brother find the meaning of Masonry, it is my hope that through the Coaches, Sponsors and Candidate Counselors we will better mentor our new brethren and deepen the lessons taught in the lectures and examinations.

Duane Dukes
Senior Warden

**Lodge Opens
September 2nd**

Be There For The Fun

My Visit To A Lodge In Florida

I recently met a Mason who invited me to attend a lodge in Sarasota, Florida. The lodge room itself was large compared to ours, and being in Florida of course, had no basement. The members generally do not wear jackets and ties. The officers wear white jackets and black pants. Unlike our lodge, they do not have social affairs such as dinner dances or parties during the year. There are no picnics due to the heat, and nothing for the kids since most of the members are older. Their line officers did consist, however, of younger men.

The Tyler and Master, who examined me in a private room, warmly welcomed me. I placed my hand on the Bible and repeated the pledge similar to the EA degree. I was asked for the three signs and passed proficiently.

During their stated meeting, I was called to the altar and presented with a beautiful pin that had a Masonic emblem and American flag on it. Their lodge membership totals about 600, though only 35 or so attend lodge each week, including many visitors.

I was impressed by the slight differences in the ritual, but pleased that it was fundamentally the same as ours. The evening was enjoyable, but wasn't the same as being in my own lodge.

Martin Paley

**Fall Reunion at
Blazin' Bills**

October 2nd

HIRAM HEARS

BRO. DUANE DUKES and Nancy are beaming over the birth of their new grandson...BRO. STEVEN DOMBROWSKI and Mary Alice became the proud parents of a new son...BRO. BRAD ZUCKER and Lisa welcomed a new daughter into the family, who is also the granddaughter of BRO. BERT ZUCKER and Sandy... Hiram's previous report that BRO. GARY ZEID had become a father and BRO. HARRY ZEID a grandfather was off by a generation. BRO. GARY is the grandfather and BRO. HARRY is now a great-grandfather...BRO. MATTHEW NEWBERRY, son of WOR. BRO.

Continued on Next Page

Hiram Hears *(continued)*

ROGER NEWBERRY and grandson of WOR.BRO. ALAN SILVER, graduated from Alfred University...Kimberly Silver, daughter of WOR.BRO. STUART SILVER and Laura, granddaughter of Maybelle Silver, graduated from the University of Rochester... Alison Bloom, daughter of BRO. STEPHEN BLOOM and Sharyl, graduated from Ursuline College with a Masters of Art degree in education ... Shaina Roseman, sister of BRO. MICHAEL ROSEMAN, daughter of Judy Berman and stepdaughter of WOR.BRO. KEEVIN BERMAN, graduated from Ohio University... Shoshanna, the youngest granddaughter of WOR.BRO. ALEX LEV and Betty, and niece of WOR.BRO. HOWARD LEV and Barbara, graduated from High School in Toledo...BRO. JONATHAN SCHWEID, son of BRO. ROBERT SCHWEID and Bobbie, graduated from medical school and will be a resident in Cleveland area ... Lee Wittenberg, son of WOR.BRO. ALAN WITTENBERG and Margo, and grandson of BRO. HARRY WITTENBERG and Harriett, has joined a practice in Chicago after completing a three year surgical residency in podiatry in Florida... BRO. MARK STOVSKY presented a paper before the American Academy of Urologists in California...BRO. RICHARD STOVSKY has been elected treasurer of Congregation Bethaynu...BRO. DUANE DUKES was given special mention at the John Carroll University commencement for being the liaison between the University and the architect and contractors during the recent construction of several new buildings on campus ... BRO. BARRY KOBLENTZ and Judy announced the engagement of their daughter, Michelle...Sam Resnik, grandson of BRO. DAVID RESNIK and Carol, celebrated his Bar Mitzvah ...WOR.BRO JEFFERY KAPLAN is engaged to Meryl Levin...BRO. MICHAEL ROSEMAN, son of Judy Berman and stepson of WOR. BRO. KEEVIN BERMAN, was married to the former Beth Kimmelhar BRO. STEPHEN BLOOM and Sharyl celebrated the marriage of their daughter Tracy to William Goldman... BRO. ROBERT MORAN of Punta Gorda, FL married Peggy Dawn ... Gloria Kay Mintz, sister of BRO. FRANKLIN PORATH, daughter of BRO. JOSEPH PORATH (deceased), niece of BRO. BENZION

PORATH (deceased), and granddaughter of Rabbi Israel Porath (deceased), a Dean of Orthodox Rabbis, was herself ordained as a rabbi in Los Angeles, on May 31, 2004.... BRO. MILTON KLEIN of Laguna Woods, CA sends regards and likes that he is remembered...BRO. DAVID MICHEL had hip replacement surgery resulting from a waterskiing accident last fall and is doing well... RT.WOR.BRO. HUGH HARRIS had a minor heart attack and is pleased to say he is quickly returning to normal... Faith Fromson, wife of RT.WOR.BRO. RICHARD FROMSON, had foot surgery...BRO. BERNARD FRIEDMAN has been ill and in the hospital...BRO. MARVIN GOLDEN was in the hospital for some tests...Delores Van Scyoc, wife of ILL. & RT.WOR. BRO RUSSELL VAN SCYOC, has been ill...BRO. LARRY COHEN had surgery in Chicago...Margo Wittenberg, wife of WOR.BRO. ALAN WITTENBERG, broke her shoulder...WOR. BRO. HARRY MARCUS had cataract surgery...Florence Zeid, wife of BRO. HARRY ZEID, suffered a fracture after a fall...BRO. HAROLD LINDEN has been nursing a sore back but didn't miss a meeting ...WOR.BRO. JEFFERY SCHULTZ had minor surgery... Lea Leyser, wife of BRO. WALTER LEYSER, has recovered from surgery after spending some time in Menorah Park...Betty Lev, wife of WOR.BRO. ALEX LEV and mother of WOR.BRO. HOWARD LEV, is recovering from knee surgery ... Hiram was saddened to learn of the passing of Pamela Spizel Ripp, daughter of BRO. EDGAR SPIZEL and Sheila. Ms. Ripp was described as an adventurer, who once crossed the Spanish Sahara desert in a caravan led by a National Geographic photographer...BRO. MARTY MITTLEMEN lost his sister in California...Barbara Lev, wife of WOR.BRO. HOWARD LEV, mourned the passing of her mother, Loretta Burton...BRO. LES LEVINE lost his father-in-law...RT.WOR.BRO. ROGER LYNCH lost his mother-in-law...BRO. ELI COHEN passed away...BRO. BART WOLSTEIN succumbed to cancer and passed away... Hiram can only tell what he hears...Anyone with news for Hiram can send it to the lodge or call one of the editors of the Rays...You can also email your news to hiram@uhlodge.org