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Message from the East



We all have heard the phrase, “We as Masons, take good men and make them better”, and of course we all use it when describing our fraternity to others, particularly the public in general. I do not have to look far to witness truth in this statement, as I have noticed over the years. We all know, or

maybe not know, that all of our potential candidates are interviewed on multiple occasions and by multiple brothers, not to mention the good work of the sponsors, who recommend the candidate. Moreover, the candidate is put through various background checks. Thus, not only is the candidate a “good man” as based on personal/brotherly recommendation and interview, but also via a very substantial set of checks. Therefore, we all start out as good men, that is a given.

The road to becoming better is multi-level; I will just elaborate on a few. We come into this fraternity as good men. By interacting with our fellow brethren we enhance and advance ourselves personally. That is what our fraternity is all about. We all come from different backgrounds: social, financial, religious, single, married, legacy, not legacy; but we all come together by virtue of the definition of fraternity and more specifically, Freemasonry, and advance ourselves to become better men. I have witnessed this and am sure you have as well. I am a better person around my brothers; we all are.

Moreover, we can look at our ritual work as another example of advancing ourselves. Simply put, I personally have noticed an enrichment of myself and functioning when I actively participate in the memorization, and usage of our ritual. This can be further applied to our other works as Freemasons. I am a better person to be using my brain rather than sitting idle. In essence following the old saying “Idle hands are the devil’s workshop”. In other

words, I am bettering myself and even though the work is challenging, and at times quite difficult, I feel better for it. I am using my head for more than a hat rack. The net result is that I am a better man by being active in my Masonic lodge compared to not being involved. Anyone can join a group to party and socialize, but there is truly very little reward in it compared to Masonry. The purpose and definition are lacking. We really are good men, made better through our interaction and Masonic work.

Fraternally yours,
Adam Rutkowski, PM
Worshipful Master

What is a Masonic Lodge?

The purpose of a lodge is to make and employ (engage) Masons. In fact, early masters were forbidden from taking more apprentices and fellows than they had work for them to do. The work of a Masonic Lodge is to spread the light of universal brotherhood through the practice of the tenets of brotherly love, relief and truth.

Three Questions for each of us to ponder:

1. Why did you decide to become a Freemason, and what were you hoping to get out of your Masonic experience?
2. If you had the power to change everything about your Masonic Lodge, what would be the first thing that you’d change?
3. If everything about your Masonic Lodge had to change but one thing, what one thing would you keep the same?

Chad E. Simpson, PM
Director, Program Development, Grand Lodge of Ohio

Rays from University Heights Lodge



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Memorial Day Parade and Picnic

University Hts. Lodge has many traditions. None is as patriotic as our participation in the University Heights Memorial Day Parade. Every year we have the honor of leading the parade while carrying a giant American flag that extends from curb to curb. Memorial Day 2016 was no exception, as eleven lodge members plus eleven more family members and friends carried the flag, our University Heights Lodge banner, handed out candy to kids along the parade route, greeted the viewers, and drove convertibles.



It was a beautiful day with hardly a cloud in the sky and the temperature in the upper 70's. We were well received by the crowd with applause and "Thank You's" to the flag carriers. The highlight of the march included a couple of well-orchestrated and executed "360's" with the gigantic flag in the intersections of the main streets along the parade route. After the parade we gathered for a picnic at Euclid Creek Reservation at the Upper Highland Pavilion. We had 40+ brethren, their families and friends in attendance. The food, beverages, and friendship time was great.

Special shout outs to all who marched in the parade and to R.W.B. Henry Mankowski for getting the candy, Bro. Jeff Moss for getting the t-shirts, and to Bro. Harvey Golden for bringing the banner and aprons. Thank you to Bro. Jerry Kozack, and Wor. Bros. Roger Newberry and Joel Newman for making the picnic a huge success. Everything was wonderful, and delicious! Thanks to all who stayed and cleaned-up. If you were not there, you missed a great time. We hope to see you next year - same date, time, and location.

Joe Huber

Master and Wardens Dinner Dance



Our hosts for the evening. From left to right, Joe Huber, Senior Warden, Adam Rutkowski, Worshipful Master and Mark Alliance, Junior Warden.

The annual Master and Wardens Dinner Dance, our premier social event of the year, was held at Mayfield Sandridge Country Club on May 14, 2016. The evening began at 6:30pm with social hour featuring delicious hors d'oeuvres, drinks, and fellowship. The wonderful meal featuring filet of beef, chicken roulade, or mushroom ravioli was expertly presented and served by the club staff.

The dinner was followed by dancing and fun for all. The photo booth was a big hit featuring props making for different themed photos. We had nearly 100 people in attendance. Congratulations to our Master, Wardens, and Social Committee for the planning and execution of this fine event.

Mark Alliance

Mason of the Year

A new tradition that the new Mason of the Year writes an article about the evening began last year by Bro. Barry Pollock, the 2015 recipient. On May 12, 2016, University Heights Lodge celebrated Mason of the Year & Friendship Night. The evening began with the presentation of the colors by Bros. Jeff Moss, Joe Hubert and Jerry Kozack. Back in town, Wor. Bro. Marc Reiff presented the Ode to the Flag. Worshipful Master Adam Rutkowski then led the Pledge of Allegiance. Wor. Bro. Leonard Holmes presented the names of the charities to which University Heights Lodge made donations this year.

The master of ceremonies, Wor. Bro. Dennis Linden, introduced the entertainment for the evening Dolce Duo. Zhou Long and Sylvia Wehrs, both students at the Cleveland Institute of Music, provided an incredible

range of selections. Ms. Long played the cello while Ms. Wehrs was the violinist. The music included classic, modern and Broadway selections. A roll call of past Masons of the Year followed.



Being named the 2016 Mason of the Year was quite a surprise. I never seek public recognition for my actions. I am involved with University Heights Lodge for several reasons. First, University Heights Lodge emphasizes Masonic education. Our lodge prides itself in providing opportunities to learn about various aspects of Masonry. Also, we have education on general topics. I remember Wor. Bro. Keevin Berman as Master having several meetings that included speakers or programs involving music, science and business.



Social action is another virtue of University Heights Lodge. Before becoming a member, I helped with Mitzvah Day. Along with several brethren and guests, I sanitized furniture and toys at a day care center. My wife and I have helped serve meals and recently walked in the Memorial Day parade. I rarely miss the social activities, such as the Dinner Dance and Schvitz nights. We are looking forward to the upcoming Nautica Queen Summer cruise. As incoming Social Chairman, I am excited about some of the activities we are planning. Please reach out to me with suggestions.

University Lodge will grow through our membership and get stronger with involvement. I encourage my fellow

brothers to come to events, attend meetings, learn more about Masonry and most importantly, to enjoy the great fellowship the lodge has to offer.

Mark Bailin

Nautica Summer Cruise Brunch

On Sunday, July 24, 2016, we invite you and your lady, children and grandchildren to a brunch cruise on the beautiful Nautica Queen, a sleek vessel with two enclosed climate-controlled decks and an open-air observation deck, where you can enjoy the fresh air blowing through your hair while you take in fabulous views of the Cleveland skyline.



You will be treated to an expansive buffet consisting of the Chef's Choice of Carving, French Toast or Waffles, Breast of Chicken du Jour, Fluffy Scrambled Eggs, Pasta du Jour, Home Fried Potatoes, Mixed Greens with Dressing, Blintzes with Fruit Toppings, Grilled Bacon, Sausage or Ham, Fresh Fruit Compote, Side Salads, Dessert, Assorted Sweet Rolls, Danishes, Croissants with Butter & Jam, Choice of Coffee, Tea or Iced Tea. Please see the event flyer on our website at: <http://www.uhlodge.com>

Congratulations

Wor. Bro. Howard Lev was elected to receive the Meritorious Service Award (MSA) from the Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, Valley of Cleveland. Howard has worked hard for many years and is deserving of this recognition. He will be receiving the MSA at the Council of Deliberation Meeting to be held in Dayton next year.

The "MSA" (Meritorious Service Award) is given in recognition of outstanding service to Scottish Rite. This can be given for service in various capacities, including work behind the scenes and for service to the Valley's Children's Dyslexia Centers. Please congratulate Howard when you see him next.

Hiram Hears

Happy 90th birthday wishes to Carol Resnik and belated happy anniversary to her and BRO. DAVID RESNIK on their 71st wedding anniversary ... Also celebrating anniversaries ... in March were WOR. BRO. HARRY MARCUS and Rita (71), WOR. BRO. ALEX LEV and Betty (69), and WOR. BRO. DAVID GREENBERG and Cynthia (61).....BRO. JEFFREY EPSTEIN and Lori (30) in April ... and BRO. JERROLD KOZACK and Linda (45) in May BRO. FRANKLIN PORATH proudly announces that his five year-old granddaughter, Carsyn Micaiah Rosenbaum, received her second modeling contract.... BRO. STEVEN WASSERMAN and Join are beaming with joy on the engagement of their daughter Dana to Paul Lux. A March, 2017 wedding is planned...After spending the last three years as a Department Chair and Professor in the College of Education at Northeastern Illinois University, Brian Schultz, son of WOR. BRO. JEFFREY SCHULTZ, has been named as the 2016 Bernard Brummel Distinguished Research Professor.....WOR. BRO. KEN VINOCUR & Natalie have been blessed with their first grandchild, baby girl Josie Lennon White. Proud parents are Andrew & Erin Vinocur White....Congratulations to our members' many children and grandchildren who became high school and college graduates....

Jill Strauss, wife of Ill. & R.W.B. BRO. EDWIN A. STRAUSS JR., underwent parotid surgery on April 28, 2016. Hiram sends well wishes for a full and speedy recovery... BRO. ERIC SKOKE is in a wheelchair with a caregiver. He had a limb amputated and now has a prosthetic that he is learning to use....WOR. BRO. JEFFREY SCHULTZ tripped and fell walking downtown in May breaking bones in his elbow and wrist. Undeterred, he enjoyed a trip to Israel in June...WOR. BRO. LEONARD HOLMES suffered a stroke and a severe fall as he was working at the Lakewood Civic Auditorium...BRO. STEVEN WASSERMAN spent time in the hospital and is recovering well ...

Rita Marcus, beloved wife of WOR. BRO. HARRY MARCUS and mother of BRO. DAVID MARCUS (Karen) and Marcia Ravitz (WOR. BRO. JAY) passed away on April 10, 2016... Flora Lewis, beloved wife of BRO. IRVING LEWIS, passed away on April 4, 2016... Melvin Roth, beloved husband of Bobbi (Roberta) Roth and brother in-law of WOR. BRO. JAY RAVITZ (Marcia), passed away on April 16, 2016, ...Sympathies to Estelle and family on the passing of BRO. NORMAN ENGEL ... and to Shelly Plasco (BRO. DON PLASCO) on the passing of her mother, Esther LeBois ...and to BRO. RICHARD LEISER and Gloria, who lost her father Leslie Sheffield in January....

Hiram can only tell what he hears and wants to hear it all. Anyone with news for Hiram can mail it to the lodge, or email it to hiram@uhlodge.org, or tell him in person when you see him.