



Vol. 56, No. 1

Winter 2005

### ***Message From The East***



As I start to collect my thoughts after an installation that followed an interesting annual meeting of University Heights Lodge, I find myself humbled and somewhat in awe of the honor that has been afforded me by my brethren. You have given me the highest honor that a brother can receive from a lodge

of Master Masons; the opportunity to serve you and our lodge as the Worshipful Master for the coming year. Thank you!! Thank you!!!

For many years now I have enjoyed my Freemasonry, and now I'm going to continue to do so with the assistance of all of you. To those of you who we haven't seen for a while I ask, why not come on back to lodge and let us all become better acquainted? You know, we've missed you since the last time we were together and we know that you have missed us also. So if you are in need of a ride or you think you are unable to remember those things that you need to know to be admitted, call me and see how welcome you will be made when you arrive. That is a challenge. Pick it up and see how you fair.

The Masonic year that has just ended has certainly been a busy one, and one that we are all proud to have shared in making a success. And now with a new year beginning, we are all looking ahead to making it as successful as possible.

Along with the activities we have planned in the lodge room, there is a very active social calendar to look forward to enjoying. To begin with, last month a large group of our brothers and their guests had occasion to spend the evening at Chuck E. Cheese, a great place for our young folks and not so young folks to partake in the good food and the activities of the many games available.

Brethren, we are in need of some assistance in various areas in the lodge. If there are those among you that would prefer to be in an active position in the opening and closing of the lodge, or in the conferring of degrees in any manner, please discuss this with me, any officer or past master. University Heights Lodge has a great reputation and heritage for excellent ritual performance in all areas that is fifty-four years in the making. If you have given it some thought in the past and have not taken it past "thinking", now is the time to step forward and join with us.

This is enough for now. I look forward to soon seeing all you regulars, and those brothers that I'm hoping to see. May God continue to bless us all, and God Bless America!!!!!!

Fraternally yours,  
Russell H. Van Scyoc  
Worshipful Master

### ***Leapin' Lizards! It's Annie***

On February 19, 2006, our brethren, their ladies, children and grandchildren will be treated to a brunch and a play at Playhouse Square. The brunch, starting at 11:30 AM will be served at the Wyndham Hotel in a private dining room with the usual University Heights Lodge tradition of fine food and plentiful desserts.

We will then walk across the street to the beautiful Palace Theater where we will enjoy a performance of the always delightful play Annie. With a memorable score, including the ever-optimistic "Tomorrow," Annie is a delightful theatrical experience for the entire family. Tickets are available for \$31.50(theater subscribers with tickets \$11.00) per person. The deadline for reservations is January 18, 2006. Contact Bro. Bruce DeBerry at (216) 381-8486 for more information.

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**Rays from  
University Heights Lodge**



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**Retiring Master's Message**

My year in the East is over and, although the time seemed short, it has been a successful year. I did what I came to do and it has been both an honor and a privilege that I will always remember.

The achievements of University Heights Lodge have been recognized by the Grand Lodge of Ohio with the Diamond Preferred Award, the highest possible award, for exceeding all of our goals this year. This award was possible because of the incredible amount of work, cooperation and collaboration among the officers, past masters, the fellow craft team and our several appointed committees. The collective effort of these 90 brothers, more than a quarter of our membership, is in itself noteworthy; such participation simply isn't found in any other organization I know. "Thank You" to all of my brethren for the tremendous effort that has brought our lodge to this pinnacle; my thanks could not be deeper or more heartfelt.

This year I emphasized leadership development through Candidate Counseling; providing new brethren in the lodge with mentoring and advice by senior Master Masons. Thank you to Wor.Bro. Alan Wittenberg, our Lodge Education Officer, for his achievements.

Another area in which we more than exceeded our goals this year is our social calendar. Under the guidance of Wor.Bro. Jeffrey Kaplan, Social Director, and with the help of Wor.Bro. Keevin Berman and Bro. Matt Newberry, we tried to widen our options, engage in new activities, and try new venues for established activities. The lodge changes with each new member. The challenge to us is to find social events that are good for young single brethren, for the wives of young married brethren, and for their children.

This past year I relied upon the depth and experience of Ill. & Rt. Wor. Bro. Ed Strauss, Ill. & Rt. Wor. Bro. Russell Van Scyoc, Rt. Wor. Bro. Richard Fromson, Rt. Wor. Bro. Hugh Harris, Wor. Bro. Alan Wittenberg, Wor. Bro. Henry Mankowski and Wor. Bro. Joel Newman for clarification of the Masonic Code and for advice. Thank you all.

I finish my year as I started, full of optimism and hope for the lodge and for the new Master, and filled with love, trust and respect for my brethren. All the money in the world cannot buy the strength and unity that comes from true brotherhood and commitment to Masonry, which I believe we have here at University Heights Lodge.

Fraternally yours,  
Duane A. Dukes  
Past Master

### **Table Lodge Comes In January**

One of the oldest traditions in Freemasonry is the Table Lodge or Lodge of Instruction. It is based on traditions originated in France and England over 200 years ago. At University Heights Lodge, a lodge of Entered Apprentices will convene at 5:15 p.m. on January 19, 2006, followed by dinner in the banquet hall at 6:30 p.m.

According to Masonic tradition, the dining tables will be arranged in the form of a horseshoe. The ceremony around the dinner includes the friendship and a warm feeling generated during the seven traditional toasts and continues throughout the evening. Our guest speaker for the evening will be Rt. Wor. Bro. John Whitehouse, a Past District Deputy Grand Master for the 22<sup>nd</sup> Masonic District who has promised a talk of interest to all.

It promises to be a delightful and educational evening of brotherhood. The evening is open to all members and Masonic guests of any degree. Dinner tickets are available from the officers at a cost of \$ 7.00. Mailed reservations must be received by Rt. Wor. Bro. Hugh Harris before January 14, 2006.

**WARREN PERL**

### **Annual Charter Night Celebration**

Fifty-three years ago, 230 forward-thinking Masons felt the need for a new Masonic Lodge in the eastern suburbs. They signed a petition for dispensation to the Grand Lodge of Ohio and soon, University Heights Lodge was created. Its first corps of officers was installed on November 11, 1952.

Each year our lodge celebrates this event with a very impressive evening to honor our Charter Members. This year, Charter Night was observed on Nov. 17th. Twenty-five, forty-, fifty-, and seventy-year pins were awarded to deserving members. We also recognized those members who gave blood during the year. A memorial service was held to remember our departed brethren and Past Masters.

Ill. Bro. Gregory A. White, the U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Ohio was the guest speaker. His talk centered on the work of his office and how his Masonic membership affects his work. The event was open to members, their ladies, and non-Masonic guests.

The evening concluded with a sumptuous dessert reception in the banquet hall. It was a special evening of fellowship and remembrance.

**BERNIE ABRAHAMS**

### **University Heights Lodge Featured at Scottish Rite Reunion**

The Scottish Rite Valley of Cleveland held its fall reunion on Friday and Saturday, November 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. Eight members of University Heights Lodge participated, either in the degree dramas or as a candidate. Members of our lodge took part in five of the nine degrees that were conferred.

Ill. & Rt. Wor. Bro. Edwin A. Strauss Jr. portrayed the Second Guide in the new 4<sup>th</sup> Degree. Rt. Wor. Bro. Hugh A. Harris was the Master of Ceremonies, and Wor. Bro. Howard Lev was an Assistant Master of Ceremony in the 14<sup>th</sup> Degree.

The 15<sup>th</sup> Degree starred Wor. Bro. Abraham Kay as Cyrus, King of Persia. This was a major speaking role and the second major role Wor. Bro. Kay has played in the last three months. Also featured in the 15<sup>th</sup> Degree were Bro. Les Levine and Bro. Maurice Senkfor who played Satrap parts.

Wor. Bro. Keevin Berman had a major speaking part in the 16<sup>th</sup> Degree. Wor. Bro. Berman's character was named Artaban. Bro. Les Levine played a Satrap in the 16<sup>th</sup> Degree as well.

Rounding out our lodge's contribution was Ill. & Rt. Wor. Bro. Russ Van Scyoc. Bro. Van Scyoc was the Hospitaler in the 14<sup>th</sup> and 32<sup>nd</sup> Degrees, and appeared as a religious figure in the 18<sup>th</sup> Degree.

Brethren who have not yet advanced to the Scottish Rite Degrees are welcomed to petition for membership. Reunions are held twice yearly, usually in April and November. See or call Rt. Wor. Bro. Harris or Ill. & Rt. Wor. Bro. Strauss if you have questions or would like a petition.

**HUGH HARRIS**



### **Children's' Party a Success Again**

Our annual Children's Holiday party was a great success once again as about 114 of our brethren and their families assembled at Chuck E. Cheese in Mayfield Heights on December 7<sup>th</sup>. Kids of all ages stuffed themselves with pizza. Several from the younger generations were seen partaking of the overflowing salad bar as the more senior attendees stood patiently in line.

Game tokens flowed like water. Kids (of all ages!) had a great time on the rides, the climbing structure and playing the wide array of games. Skee-Ball was particularly popular as in years past, with a constant crowd huddled around the bank of lanes. Lights were flashing and tickets piled up on the floor.

Many thanks to the organizers as well as attendees for making the Holiday Party a night to remember!



**Got Issues?  
Need a Ride?**

**Call RWB Russ  
Van Scyoc  
(216) 671-7201**

### **A New Directory is Coming**

The Directory Committee is planning to publish a new directory in 2006. If you have recently moved, please advise the secretary of your new address, phone numbers and email information. While we often discover that a brother has moved when their mail is returned as non-deliverable, your input is especially needed to update the other information.

You may reach the secretary at the phone numbers listed on the masthead, or use the Roster Update page on our Lodge website to easily update your information.

### **Hiram Hears**

The Grand Lodge of Ohio awarded University Heights Lodge with a "Diamond Preferred" Grand Master's award in September for meeting and exceeding the goals we set for ourselves at the beginning of 2005. Congratulations to WOR. BRO. DUANE A. DUKES and his corps of officers for this singular achievement...Kelly Ravitz, daughter of WOR. BRO. JAY RAVITZ and Marcia, granddaughter of WOR. BRO. HARRY MARCUS and Rita, was married over the

summer... BRO. HARRY WITTENBERG, father of WOR. BRO. ALAN WITTENBERG and WOR. BRO. STUART WITTENBERG, and grandfather to BRO's DANIEL and MARC WITTENBERG, celebrated his 91st birthday with his family in September...ILL. & RT. WOR. BRO. RUSS VAN SCYOC and Dolores celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary...Eileen Jacobs, wife of BRO. BOB JACOBS, underwent surgery in September...BRO. IRA SCHOBEL was hospitalized briefly in the fall...Ruthe Linden, wife of BRO. HAROLD LINDEN and mother of WOR. BRO. DENNIS LINDEN, had surgery in October. Hiram also heard that Ruthe suffered from a bout of pneumonia in December but is glad to report she is doing better on both counts...Carole Resnik, wife of BRO. DAVID RESNIK, underwent hand surgery...Marcia Arons, wife of WOR. BRO. ALAN ARONS and daughter of BRO. ELVIN SHULTZ and Polly, had a surgical procedure in the fall...Elise Newman, wife of our late WOR. BRO. JOSEPH NEWMAN and mother of WOR. BRO. JOEL NEWMAN, underwent surgery in December...BRO. HERB MICHALS had additional surgeries and was reported to recuperating at Menorah Park...Lea Leyser, wife of BRO. WALTER LEYSER, underwent another surgical procedure in early December...BRO. MAURICE FEREN was hospitalized briefly...ILL.& RT. WOR. BRO. EDWIN STRAUSS, JR. had surgery on his hand...WOR. BRO. DANIEL FRIEDMAN had surgery and is resting at home...Alyce Stovsky, wife of BRO. ROBERT STOVSKY and mother of BRO's. RICHARD, MARK & MICHAEL STOVSKY, was hospitalized in the fall and is recovering at home...BRO. BERT RAND passed away...BRO. ROBERT ARNSON has joined with the Supreme Architect of the Universe... Hiram regrets that last issue he missed that the late Alma Zimmerman, wife of the late BRO. JUSTIN ZIMMERMAN, was the grandmother of BRO. DANNY SPITZ...Sue Water, wife of our late Tyler, BRO. KENNETH WATER, passed away...Hiram can only tell what he hears...Anyone with news for Hiram can mail it to the lodge, inform any Rays editor or reporter, or email it to [hiram@uhlodge.org](mailto:hiram@uhlodge.org)

HIRAM

**Schvitz Night  
March 8, 2006**

**See more of your brethren**

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## **Committee Appointments 2005 – 2006**

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