



Vol. 65, No. 1

Winter 2014

### **Message From The East**



#### **Happy New Year to the Brethren of University Heights Lodge!**

It is a great honor that you have bestowed upon me by electing me as your Master. Even though I was Master of Parkside Lodge #736 in 2009, being Master of University Heights Lodge is a whole new world in my Masonic life. I have learned a lot going through the

chairs in our lodge and I want to continue to learn more about Masonry this year as master.

Speaking of learning, our Grand Master, Most Worshipful Brother Steven E. Cokonougher, has put a lot of challenges before us this year. He has initiated several programs on education. One of them is to have an education program at every meeting; not to just have our own LEO give the programs, but to have outside speakers present non-Masonic topics. Another one is for the leaders of the lodge to attend the workshop on "Masons Make Better Leaders".

One of my goals on education is to have meetings with the officers to work on our ritual presentation to make us an even better lodge.

Two more big challenges that our Grand Master has given us:

1. To try and get most of the members back that we had to suspend due to nonpayment of dues.
2. To establish a Master Craftsman program. Do not know what a Master Craftsman is? Come to lodge and learn about it. It will be quite meaningful to you. You do not have to be an officer to become a Master Craftsman. In fact a line officer cannot become one.

These are just a few of the challenges our Grand Master has set forth for all of the lodges this year and they are going to be a big challenge for us. With the help of every member, our lodge can do it.

There are a few changes that are being made in our own lodge. One of them is that our Master and Warden's dinner dance will be held in June this year. We have a very nice venue where we will be able to go outside to a covered patio for part of the evening. Our meal is going to be served family style. If you go away hungry it will be your own fault.

With the help of all the officers and members of University Heights Lodge we can make this a great year.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone at a lodge meeting.

Fraternally,  
Leonard (Len) Holmes  
Worshipful Master

#### **UH Lodge #738 Softball 2015**

For the first time in many years our lodge is planning to field a softball team. The plan is to have a co-ed team in one of the nearby Hillcrest leagues. The team will be open to our members and significant others. More details will be available as leagues begin to form in the coming months. This is a fun and exciting way to really get to know other members and to get involved with our lodge.

Please contact Mark Alliance at (216) 570-7488 or at [markalliance@att.net](mailto:markalliance@att.net). The first step is that we prepare a list of members who are interested in playing. Join us for a summer of fun and get to know your brethren in a setting outside of the lodge room. Be a part of our team and join us. University Heights Lodge looks forward to your participation. More details will be available in the coming months.

Mark Alliance  
Junior Deacon

**Rays from  
University Heights Lodge**



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**Retiring Master's Message**

For those not familiar with the legend of where dragons come from, a school of koi decided to swim up the yellow river. After they got near their destination they came upon a waterfall. One brave koi decided to try and swim up the waterfall. An evil demon that was watching did not want the koi to succeed and extended the waterfall all the way to the heavens. The brave koi did not give up. He kept swimming and jumping up the waterfall. His strength slowly grew. After 100 years he made it to the top and the gods rewarded him by transforming him into a dragon.

I felt this legend was in part the lesson of the rough ashlar and the perfect ashlar. Just like operative masons refine the rough stone to be used in building, we should do so with ourselves. While we may never be dragons or perfect ashlars, we should strive to work hard and improve ourselves every day and never give up.

Over the past year many people have put in a lot of effort to improve and continue the works of the lodge. I would like to thank the officers, past masters, committees, and members for their support and efforts over the past year. Due to everyone's help we had many successful events and were able to obtain the Grand Masters Award.

I look forward to seeing everyone in lodge and having an opportunity to sit on the sidelines. I wish the new line of officers an even more successful year than last.

Fraternally,  
Ron Taxer, PM  
Past Master



**Charter Member, Bro. I. Joseph Berger receives his 65 Year Service from RWB Tony Constantine and WB. Len Holmes. RWB Henry G. Mankowski and WB Alan G. Silver assisted in the presentation.**

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**Every Man is a PR Man for Freemasonry**

I found this article among the LEO Programs on the Education page of the Grand Lodge of Ohio website ([www.freemason.com/pro](http://www.freemason.com/pro)). I thought about delivering this in lodge as one of our education programs but decided the audience needed to be a bit wider. It was written by Rt. Wor. Bro. Jack L. Allen, a past Grand Marshal of the Grand Lodge of Ohio.

Every Mason practices Public Relations whether we realize it or not. If we wear a ring, a lapel pin or have an emblem on our car, we are PR men for Freemasonry. Simply put: Public Relations is the relationship an organization has with the general public.

Whatever we do while wearing a Masonic emblem, we are having a public relationship on behalf of Masonry. When we work in the local food pantry, feed the homeless, distribute clothing and food baskets to the needy, we are doing something positive which the public recognizes and probably relates to our Masonic affiliation.

When a lodge displays an emblem on its building, advertises its meetings in the paper or lists a Masonic service in an obituary, Public Relations is being practiced. When the lodge holds a Family Night, Friendship Night or Candidates Night, Public Relations is being practiced. All of these actions are publicity.

While some Masons still prefer to keep Masonry's light under a bushel, the fact is that same Mason probably wears a ring or a fez and that same Mason is making a very obvious public statement. And that is Public Relations.

Consider then the next time we fuss with a local merchant or try to talk our way out of a traffic ticket, and our ring or car emblem or Masonic license plate is showing, we are also showing Public Relations.

While some Masons believe that Public Relations is the role of a particular member or committee, the truth is: Public Relations is the responsibility of every Mason. What message will we send to the public about Masonry when we leave the lodge after a meeting? Will we stop by the local pub and down a few? Will we cut someone off in traffic? Will we run a "pink" light? Will we drive 45 in a 35 mph zone? All of these actions are also publicity.

Our behavior is the most important and most visible public relations program. In all three charges delivered in the symbolic lodge we are reminded of the importance of our behavior. What the public sees is the perception the general public has about our great fraternity. Always make us proud. Be a Positive PR Man for Freemasonry.

Roger C. Newberry, P.M.  
Lodge Education Officer

**Save the Date**

**June 13, 2015**

**Master and Wardens Dinner Dance  
at  
Angelo's Nido Italia**

***A Historical Charter Night***

On November 13<sup>th</sup> the cold and snow struck outside but inside the lodge hall, those assembled were treated to a wonderful and informative evening of Cleveland Masonic history as presented by Brother Timothy Daley, Executive Director of The Cuyahoga County Soldier's and Sailor's Monument. Bro. Daley also is the Director of the Cleveland Masonic Library. The presentation was in honor of University Heights' Lodge's 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual Charter Night.

Following Bro. Daley's discourse, presentations were made to award 25, 35, 40, and 50 plus year pins to those Masons who have reached these milestones. Also recognized were our newly raised brethren and blood bank donors. The evening was culminated by our traditional moving memorial service honoring our recently departed brethren and past masters.

Preceding the illuminating talk by Bro. Daley, which was complete with old slides and photos, was an awesome dinner featuring either prime rib or salmon. The food was excellent and all who were in attendance enjoyed the evening wholeheartedly.

David Michel

**Upcoming Events**

**February 7, 2015**

**Tasting Party at Winking Lizard**

**March 18, 2015**

**Schvitz Night**

**April 23, 2015**

**Annual Inspection**

**May 14, 2015**

**Mason of the Year and Friendship Night**

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### ***The Skull and Crossbones***

As many brethren know, George Washington was a Mason. You may have noticed there is a picture of him in his Masonic regalia just to the left of the doorway that we walk through to enter lodge room.

Did you ever notice his apron in the painting? Between the square and compass is a skull and crossbones symbol where traditionally we see the letter G? Why is that? What is the significance? This inquiring mind wanted to know.

I found out that the image of the skull and crossbones is often associated with death and piracy. Likewise, the symbol often serves as a warning of dangerous or harmful substances. While the concept of death does play a role in its usage, the Masonic application of the skull is not related to piracy or poison.

Today, the skull and crossbones appear at Masonic lodges in Chambers of Reflection and in tracing boards used to teach Masonic beliefs and traditions. It can also be seen in the fraternity's rituals, such as initiation and knighting ceremonies. The image also commonly appears on Masonic paraphernalia, such as rings and jewelry.

The skull and crossbones, or specifically the skull (or death's head) is actually a symbol to remind us of death, as it is the ultimate equalizer of man as none can avoid its eventuality.

Throughout history, the skull and crossbones have symbolized the concept of "Memento Mori," which translates from Latin as "remember death" or "remember you must die." In his essay, "The Symbol of the Skull and Crossbones and Its Masonic Application," Brother P.D. Newman of Tupelo Lodge Number 318 observes that this remains true for the Masonic symbol, stating the skull "stands as the primary reminder of the grim truth that death is ever immanent." This reminder seeks to incite contemplation and reflection in life.

This is more a means to remind us that no matter our station in life, rich or poor, we are subject to the same fate, and that our goal should be to make this world better for everyone.

Guidelines from the Grand Lodge of Colorado state that the crossbones behind the skull "hint at the pillars, the portico of man upon which he must stand as he labors in the quarry." In his essay "Memento Mori-The Symbol of Skull with Crossed Bones," Brother William Steve Burkle associates the skull not with death, but with rebirth, a reminder of the temporal world that calls for spiritual and intellectual reawakening.

Freemasons sometimes refer to their fraternity as a "Gentle Craft," and though the skull symbol appears grim, it has underlying layers of hope. Newman

speculates that in addition to the inevitability of death, the skull may also symbolize the inward potential of people, or the concept that "the Lodge is in the head," as stated in Tobias Churton's "The Golden Guidelines: Alchemists, Rosicrucians and the First Freemasons."

The course of these meanings is that all Masons should always strive for our noble endeavors, namely brotherly love, relief, and truth.

There you have it! Some insight and interpretations behind a meaningful Masonic symbol.

Marc Wittenberg

### ***Hiram Hears***

Margo Wittenberg, wife of WOR. BRO. ALAN WITTENBERG, celebrated her 70<sup>th</sup> birthday last June...while WOR. BRO. HARRY MARCUS celebrated #93 in October... WOR. BRO. ALAN SILVER spent time in Hillcrest Hospital and is recuperating at Regency Hospital...Mazel Tov to BRO. DALE NASH and Karen on the engagement of their daughter, Margo, to Joseph Lipps. BRO. NASH and Karen were also recently honored by B'nai Jeshurun Congregation. BRO. ALAN RIGA and Judy with BRO. ABRAHAM KAY and Bonnie participated in the ceremony...WOR.BRO. ROGER NEWBERRY and Carla celebrated the birth of granddaughter #2 in mid November. Scarlet Addison is the niece of WOR. BRO. MATT NEWBERRY and Diana and is the great granddaughter of WOR. BRO. ALAN SILVER and Rhoda...In May, BRO. SHELDON ZELDES and Barbara celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary in Boynton Beach Florida... Happy 59<sup>th</sup> anniversary to BRO. MAURICE SENKFOR and Mona... Mazel tov to BRO. MICHAEL ZAWATSKY and Jodi on daughter Jordyn becoming a Bat Mitzvah... and to BRO. BARRY POLLACK and Sally on grandson Joshua becoming a Bar Mitzvah... Rhoda Silver, wife of WOR. BRO. ALAN SILVER and grandmother of WOR.BRO. MATT NEWBERRY fractured her pelvis...BRO. HARRY ZEID, father of BRO. GARY ZEID (Kathy) slipped his mortal bonds in November. A Masonic service was held in his honor...Linda Chapman, wife of BRO. HOWARD CHAPMAN, lost her mother, Sally Kandel...BRO. GERALD ELSON passed away in December...Condolences to the Golden family on the passing of Claire, wife of longtime member BRO. MARVIN GOLDEN and the mother of BRO. ROBERT GOLDEN, both of blessed memory...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.

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