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Spring 2003

Message From The East



Over the past three months, many of our brethren and I have been preparing candidates for the Grand Master's One-Day Class that was held on March 15th. Membership meetings were convened, interviews were conducted and follow-up correspondence was mailed, all leading to the "big day" when our newest members took their degrees.

With the help and support of numerous brethren, the process flowed smoothly, and the nine candidates who took part in the One-Day Class for the 22nd District were well prepared to receive the mysteries of the first three degrees of Freemasonry.

It occurred to me, during this hectic time, that all of us could take a few moments, look back to the days when we received our degrees and ask ourselves some very pertinent questions: Why did we join the Fraternity? Has what we have learned about Freemasonry made us better men, better Masons? Do we practice the tenets of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth on a daily basis? What do we expect from our Lodge? And are there opportunities for each one of us to make our Lodge better? Each of us must answer the first three questions for ourselves. I encourage you to make the time and take the effort to do that.

Regarding the last question, be assured that there are numerous ways you can help make your Lodge better while you have a good time. The officers are always looking for brethren who are willing to learn a part of the ritual, or coach a candidate. There is a little memorization involved, but you can have a lasting impact on a newly obligated brother's Masonic life. Wor. Bro. Harry Marcus can always use a helping hand (or several helping hands) with the Stewards Committee. It's not a lot of work, and more hands mean that the job gets done faster. Back up marchers and speaking part

alternates for the Master Mason drama are welcomed. Bro. Marty Mittleman is looking for help with the May 27th Blood Drive at the Lyndhurst Masonic Building. Social events and Lodge dinners require volunteers to help set up and break down. In fact, I am looking for Brethren and their ladies to help with the July 13 Family Fun Picnic.

And finally, have you ever considered joining the line and becoming an officer? It is the most rewarding thing you can do in our Lodge. If you have the interest and inclination, I would strongly and enthusiastically encourage you to consider this "ultimate volunteer opportunity."

So, yes, there are opportunities for each of us to make our Lodge better. But you have to take the initiative to seek out those opportunities. Please see or call any of the line officers or me if you would like to discuss ways that you can volunteer and help your Lodge. We would be delighted to assist to find the right niche for your efforts!

Fraternally yours,
Jeffrey A. Kaplan
Worshipful Master

Nine New Members at One-Day Class

On Saturday, March 15, 2003, the 22nd Masonic District conducted a One-Day Class to confer all three degrees on new candidates. 143 candidates received their degrees and became Master Masons on that day. University Heights Lodge had nine candidates attend who become our newest Master Masons. Joining our Lodge are Bro Mitchell Bienia, Bro. Aric Kinast, Bro. Brent Kirvel, Bro. Bruce Rosenblum, Bro. Daniel Strauss, Bro. Eric Strauss, Bro. Allen Wapnick, Bro. David Van Scyoc, and Bro. Gary Zeid. We welcome our newest Brethren and invite them to attend our regular lodge meetings and all social, community and fraternal functions.

Rays From University Heights Lodge



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Dinner Dance Returns to Landerhaven

This gala event returns to Landerhaven after being away for several years. Our annual Master and Wardens Dinner Dance will be held on Saturday, May 3, 2003. The evening begins at 6:00 PM with a choice of delicious hors d'oeuvres and fellowship. The menu features a choice of Boston strip steak, rack of lamb, or herb-seared sea bass. Concluding the meal will be the fabulous dessert table for which Executive Caterers is well known.

“High Society”, a 9-piece orchestra that plays a wide variety of music will provide accompaniment during dinner and afterwards for dancing until late into the evening. The cost is only \$85 a couple, a real value for this exciting event. Dinner and table reservations are a must. Contact Bro. Robert Stovsky at (216) 382-6225 to make your reservations.

BARRY POLLOCK

**Mason of the Year
Night
May 29, 2003**

Mardi Gras was Great

The University Heights Lodge had a fantastic time at our Mardi Gras celebration, this year's winter party, hosted by Wor. Bro. Jeff Kaplan. The Embassy Suites Hotel was transformed into a vision of New Orleans for the evening, with masks and beads available for those who had not worn their own. But most people arrived in fabulous costumes, ranging from simple masks to a Phantom of the Opera!

The Hurricane Punch flowed freely as we all relaxed and looked forward to the arrival of spring. The Rock-On DJ Service played a great variety of music and prizes were awarded for the best and most creative masks. Gary and Katie Zeid were crowned King and Queen of Mardi Gras. Gary, who was just raised at the Grand Master's one-day class on March 15, is the son of Brother Harry Zeid and the uncle of Brother Larry Solomon. Now he is their brother as well!

The buffet dinner and dessert were delicious, and the party went into the night. Many thanks to the Master and his committee for a wonderful evening!

LAWRENCE SOLOMON

Volunteers Needed

This year, the Summer Picnic will be held at Pioneer Water Park on July 13th, 2003. Unlike recent years, this year's picnic will include many of the games and group activities we all grew up with. Returning to a "Euclid Beach" style event, however, requires the help of many.

Committees are being formed to perform tasks related to set up, food preparation, serving, games and prizes. Although many of the brethren and their ladies have already volunteered to help with this event, positions are still open on every committee. If you and your family plan on attending this year's picnic and would like to participate in the planning and execution of this great event, please contact Wor. Bro. Jeff Kaplan at (216) 382-2685.

Meet your District Deputy Grand Master



Born in Berea and raised in Middleburg Heights, Right Worshipful Brother James Oakley Gillahan attended Berea Public Schools. He served in the Air Force from 1963 until 1967 and was stationed in Michigan, Alaska and Omaha. Rt. Wor. Bro. Gillahan spent most of his professional career in school photography and owning

Professional School Portraits, Inc. Retiring in 2000, Rt. Wor. Bro. Gillahan now spends his days as a Realtor. Married to Nancy for 35 years, they have two children, Michael and Molly.

Rt. Wor. Bro. Gillahan was raised in Quarry Lodge #382 in November 1963. He served as Worshipful Master in 1990, 1993, 1994, 1995 and was President of the Cuyahoga County Blue Lodge Association in 1997. Rt. Wor. Bro. Gillahan received the degrees of Royal Arch in Berea Chapter #134, Triangle Council #139, and Holyrood Commandery #32 and was enlightened to the degrees of Scottish Rite in 1989. Rt. Wor. Bro. Gillahan was appointed a District Deputy Grand Master in October of 2000 by Most Worshipful Brother Thomas E. Reynolds.

Rt. Wor. Bro. Gillahan looks forward to working with our officers and brethren during the coming year.

Hiram Hears

BRO. LEONARD SHAPIRO, Reisha their children and grandchildren, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with a cruise to the western Caribbean and the Panama Canal...Eric, son of BRO. DAVID MICHEL and Lisa became a Bar Mitzvah...Stephen, son of BRO ALAN MEYER and Laurie also became a Bar Mitzvah...WOR.BRO. HARRY MARCUS and Rita had their 58th anniversary...WOR.BRO. ALEX LEV and Betty celebrated No. 56...Alison Jill, daughter of BRO. STEPHEN BLOOM and Sharyl, became engaged to Marc David Rossen...WOR. BRO. JEFF SCHULTZ and Jane report that son Brian is engaged to Jennifer McBride and daughter Amy is engaged to Chris Soranno...BRO. MEL DIAMOND was honored by Northern Ohio Live as one of the 10 Top General Dentists...Matthew Harris, son of RT.WOR.BRO. Hugh Harris and Chris, has completed the requirements for Eagle Scout...BRO. PHIL FELDMAN had kidney surgery...BRO. MYRON PAIGE spent some time in the hospital... BRO. HOWARD CHAITOFF had cataract surgery...BRO. BERNIE WEISENTHAL has been ill...WOR.BRO.STUART WITTENBURG had surgery and is now receiving therapy... WOR. BRO. ROGER NEWBERRY lost his mother...BRO. BOB STODDARD lost his father-in-law...BRO. ROBERT WEISS' father (Alex - of Ellsworth Lodge) passed away...BRO. CHESTER WILLEY lost his father-in-law...Dr. Seymour Steinman, father of Jane Schultz and father-in-law of WOR. BRO. JEFF SCHULTZ, passed away Florida...BRO. BERNARD KURLANDER passed away as did BRO. MARVIN GUTTERMAN...Our web site (www.uhlodge.org) was awarded the 2003-2004 Golden Web Award by the Association of Web Masters & Designers. Receiving this award has also earned us a spot in "Who's Who on the Web"...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.

HIRAM

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Web Site
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Book Review

Holy Blood, Holy Grail; written by Michael Baigent, Richard Leigh, and Henry Lincoln, is not a Masonic book, but it discusses legends and events on which or early brethren based the genesis of our fraternity. It is also an interesting read about the development of Christianity.

The hypothesis of this book is that Jesus did not die on the cross but rather escaped, married Mary Magdalene and had children. The family fled the Middle East, probably to Europe, and gave rise to the Merovingian Dynasty. The Knights Templar were either recruited or created by this dynasty to return to the holy land to bring back proof of this event. The Pope, however, thwarted this effort.

This period of history was rife with messianic cults. There was no reason for anyone to be particularly bothered by any self-proclaimed prophet, unless he was widely believed to be a descendent of David. This would have upset the tenuous political and religious balance.

The authors theorize that Jesus had come up with a new angle on religion that appealed to the masses, but that he and his family were more interested in occupying the throne of Jerusalem. When this failed, the family fled to protect the bloodline. The authors theorize that the family's followers, who became the early church, were more concerned with the message and fostered the myth of the resurrection to propel their cause. Finally, the authors claim that the tension between those who were loyal to the extant bloodline and those loyal to the church has been a central force in the events of the world to this day.

While the historic references in the book are accurate, the analysis is pure speculation with little offered to substantiate the claims. The book was, however, interesting reading and I recommend it.

Keevin Berman
Past Master

Blood Drive Scheduled for May 27

On May 27th, from 1:00 P.M. until 7:00 P.M., the Red Cross Blood Bank will be taking donations at the Lyndhurst Masonic Temple. Blood Bank Chairman, Bro. Marty Mittleman, has invited all Masonic Lodges and affiliated bodies that meet in the building to join in this year's Blood Drive.

Bro. Mittleman is looking for a few volunteers from each Lodge to assist the Red Cross personnel where needed. If you can spare a few hours on May 27th, please call Bro. Mittleman at (440) 646-0479.

**Summer Picnic at
Pioneer Waterland Park
July 13, 2003**

**Volunteers Needed !!
Contact Wor. Bro. Kaplan**

Secretary's Corner

Many members with affiliation in other jurisdictions have asked about lifetime memberships in our Lodge. Strictly speaking, Ohio does not provide such a program for the blue lodges. A few lodges waive their member's dues after a set period of time, for example, fifty years. All lodges are required to remit the dues of those members too ill or in need of financial assistance to pay their own. This, however, does not relieve the lodge of the obligation to pay Grand Lodge the per capita dues for each member on its roster.

The Grand Lodge of Ohio has created a program called Endowed Membership that allows a member or candidate to make a single payment and never pay additional dues. The program requires a fixed amount, currently \$600.00, be paid to the Grand Lodge. The Grand Lodge then invests these funds and the income earned is returned to the local lodge in lieu of dues from the member.

The membership may be purchased in any name by any person. This provision allows a father, for instance, to ensure that his son will remain a member of his lodge. Currently, the fund is returning about \$39.00 per unit. This amount is slightly less than our current dues and is likely to decrease in the coming year. The return, however, does not affect the member, since his dues are deemed paid in full. The benefit to the lodge is the recurring income. The benefit to the member is relief from the yearly obligation.

With approval of the blue lodge, the endowment can be paid in installments for up to 5 years, but the obligation to pay dues continues until full payment is made. If the required amount is not paid within that time, the money is returned to the member by the lodge without interest.

The Grand Lodge will be raising the required amount to \$800.00 after July 31, 2003. If any member of our Lodge is interested in an Endowed Membership, please contact me promptly.

Joel I. Newman, PM
Secretary