



RAY'S

FROM UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS LODGE NO. 738 F. & A. M.

Vol. 71, No. 2

Spring 2021

Message from the East



As I began preparing for our upcoming Annual Inspection these last few weeks, I was quickly reminded how easy it is to let the teachings of our great fraternity slip into the depths of our subconscious. I'm confident we never fully forget the life-changing lessons learned in the first few months of our Masonic journey, but we each must be reminded of them from time to time to keep them fresh and in the forefront of our minds. These universal truths serve as a purifier for our thoughts, words, and deeds.

Wisdom. Wisdom to make educated decisions. We should carefully consider all the facts; step back and see the 'big picture'. Wisdom to learn from the past. We've all heard the phrase "these are unprecedented times" often repeated this last year, but are they? Has no one ever encountered a similar obstacle before? I think not. We must always be looking to the past and learning from others' trials and tribulations. Wisdom to lead others on the right path. We are not the wolves, but are we sheep? Are we simply following the crowd, remaining peaceful, unaware of our surroundings, and trying not to make waves? Or are we sheepdogs? Sheepdogs are society's protectors and leaders. They blend into the flock but lead them on the safe path.

Strength. Strength to persevere. Strength to fight for what is right. Strength to restrain ourselves; to keep our desires within due bounds. We have all heard the words "strength in numbers", but we forget that those numbers must be unified. Just as a school of fish all swim closely

together for one purpose, we must all remain harmonious: driven towards the same goal.

Beauty. Beauty to see the good in the world. Beauty to see past our differences; to the good in each other. Beauty to be thankful for the manifold blessings that surround us every day. Beauty to be thankful for the time spent with those no longer with us. Beauty to remember the lessons taught to us by those who await us in that celestial lodge above.

Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth. Arguably the cornerstone of our fraternity. *Brotherly love*; to regard the whole human species as one great family. The high, the low. The rich, the poor. The left, the right. We are one. At the foundation of our very existence, we are to aid, support, and protect one another. *Relief*. Something we all hope to never need but are ever so thankful to receive in trying times. As we observe the world, we see countless in need. Are we affording relief to them as we are able? *Truth*. We must always be in search of it. With so much untruthfulness in the world, we must always be in pursuit of truth. We must refuse to accept anything less than the complete truth. Are you?

Yet with all these lessons, we are but only human. To err is to be human. Do you lean on your fellow brethren for their support? Or do you carry all the weight of life on your own? Share the load. Embarrassment has no place among us, so bend a brother's ear. Lend an ear. Provide and seek good counsel. Be the true and trustworthy friend in whose fidelity we might all safely confide.

John D. Padley,
Worshipful Master

Rays from University Heights Lodge



Published quarterly in the interest of
University Heights Lodge No. 738 F. & A. M.
5516 Mayfield Rd.
Lyndhurst, OH 44124
<http://www.uhlodge.org>

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Message from the West

Welcome back to Spring, Brethren! This season of renewal and rebirth is emphasized even further by the increasingly widespread availability of the Covid-19 vaccine, as the metaphorical light at the end of the tunnel appears to be much closer than ever before. I'd like to take this moment to ask each and every one of you to get vaccinated as soon as possible (if you haven't already). All vaccines now available provide high levels of protection and mean we will all be able to meet on the literal level that much sooner. If you have any questions about these vaccines, please do not hesitate to contact your doctor or consult the Center for Disease Control's website, found at www.cdc.gov.

The discussion around vaccines has not been that much different from any subject that has recently been in the news or public discourse. Namely, there are multiple sources of information, but unfortunately not all of them can be relied upon to be correct and unbiased. In our education as Freemasons, we are taught to practice the tenets of Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth. It is Truth, in this case, that should be our guide, not only for our own personal truths, but for those scientific and demonstrable truths as well.

From time to time, we will certainly come across those (sometimes even Brother Masons) who have been misled from factual truths. This is where the other tenets come into play. Our normal instincts are to dismiss and belittle, but that ignores the journey that our fellow Brother or person has taken to come to that point. As Masons, we should be compassionate, and ask how and why this person has reached this conclusion. At the same time, we should keep an open mind, as it is even possible that our own worldview could be flawed. But we should never let ourselves be drawn from what is factual-- not based in circumstance or fantasy.

Using these tenets, we should attempt to guide our fellows back to the path of facts and truth, as long as they are willing to keep an open mind. If their mind is closed, we should still practice that tenet of Brotherly Love, and with patience wait until they are willing to open up once again. Be safe, be well, and I hope to see you all soon.

Matthew E. Newberry, PM
Senior Warden

Social Events to Restart in September

It has been way too long since members and families of University Heights Lodge have been able to get together at outside social events. So, it is with great pleasure that Worshipful Brother John Padley is pleased to announce the resumption of the Lodge's social events, starting with our Annual Dinner Dance, to be held at Mayfield Sandridge Country Club on Saturday evening, September 11, 2021. This will be formal affair, reminiscent of our spectacular dinner dances of past years. More information about the dinner dance, along with reservation forms, will be sent out later in the summer. But mark your calendars now to ensure you don't miss out on this event which is always the high point of the Lodge's social year.

Shortly following the dinner dance, the Lodge will return to the River Grove Chestnut Shelter in the Cleveland Metroparks North Chagrin Reservation for its annual clambake. This is scheduled for Sunday afternoon, September 26, 2021. This event continues to grow in popularity, and everyone who attends always has a terrific meal and a really good time. Again, mark your calendar so that when you get your notice and reservation form, you won't miss out on this fun event.

Please note that both events are subject to the CDC and State of Ohio COVID-19 guidelines in effect at the time of the event. If any other outside social events can be held in the Fall, members will be informed by email and at the meetings. Stay tuned for any updates.

Jeff Kaplan, PM
Social Chairman

Message from The South

Well! This has been interesting. And, I must say, I am glad to see the end of this long, dark tunnel getting closer. At our Stated Meeting, on March 5th last year, I doubt any of us even considered that it might be more than a year until we could begin getting back to a "normal" schedule. When I look back, I see my calendar is filled with lodge meetings and social events that were cancelled. Table Lodge, Inspection, the Dinner Dance, Memorial Day Parade, and even Charter Night for 2020 were dropped. The only time the lodge met face-to-face was for our Annual Meeting and Elections. And, for that session, we were only permitted to have 12 brethren in the room. Having the Lodge totally dark between March and September was, to say the least, weird. Especially for those of us who have grown accustomed to the rhythm of the Masonic calendar. No ritual work, no visitations to or from other lodges, none of the camaraderie of seeing and

talking to our brethren, no snacks after the meetings. And yet, somehow the time got filled and what was probably inconceivable a year ago became routine.

The advent of virtual meetings on Zoom has been an interesting change. There is no way these sessions can match being together in a Lodge meeting. But having the meetings on-line has given us a chance to see and talk to some of our remote Brethren who cannot travel to Lyndhurst on Thursday nights. I believe the officer corps is looking for ways to convene more online sessions as we rise from the pandemic.

And, finally, I am happy to report I have had two doses of the Pfizer Covid-19 vaccine with only nominal side effects. As I write this, I am, according to the CDC passing through to 100% immunity from serious disease. I encourage all our brethren and their families to get the shot(s) as soon as you can so I can, again, "See you in Lodge!"

Roger C. Newberry, PM
Junior Warden

Happy Birthday Wishes To:

April: David Arons, Myron Bernstein, Robert Fried, Howard Lev, Richard Leyser, Matthew Lillo, Dennis Linden, Daniel Marcus, Dale Nash, Bernard Neckrich, Matthew Newberry, Adam Pollock, Marc Reiff, Alan Riga, Peter Rzepka, Richard Stovsky

May: Burton Curtis, Michael Hill, Milan Kane, Matthew Lev, Edward Levine, Robert Moran, Milton Nadler, John Padley, Valeri Popritkin, Michael Silver

June: James Burk, Ryan Jakosh, Harvey Mitchell, David Paley, Earl Stein, Michael Thal

Hiram Hears

Helene Weinberger, wife of the late WOR. BRO. FROYAM "BUD" HECHT WEINBERGER and mother of BRO. BARRETT WINEBERGER passed away Dec. 14, 2020...Estelle Engel, wife of late BRO. NORMAN ENGEL, passed away on January 4th...Mabel Snider, mother of BRO. LES SNIDER (Sharon) passed away February 15th...WOR. BRO. ABRAHAM KAY (see article)...

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

Remembering Abraham Kay

Wor. Bro. Abraham Kay died Feb. 23, 2021, at age 70. Abraham was born as a stateless refugee in Marktredwitz, Germany, to beloved parents, Max



(Moses) and Sara, both Holocaust survivors born in Wielun, Poland. Abraham had a loving marriage with the late Bonnie (nee Barkley) for 33 years.

Meeting in Wielun after the war, Max and Sara fled Poland for the last time following attacks by Polish residents against returning Jewish survivors. From there they moved to Marktredwitz, Germany, living as displaced persons until departing for the United States on the SS General Stewart on Dec. 20, 1951, a voyage Abraham made as a toddler. The family was settled in Cleveland by HIAS and the Jewish Federation of Cleveland, becoming U.S. citizens in 1957 and joining Oheb Zedek Congregation in 1959.

Having navigated the path from refugee to citizen, Abraham devoted his four-decade career as an immigration attorney to helping other families – many of whom had likewise fled violence and upheaval for safety in the United States – do the same. A graduate of Beachwood High School, Case Western Reserve University (B.A.) and Fordham University (J.D.), Abraham was dedicated to scholarship and education.

In his parenting, this manifested early on as a prolific out-loud reader with a wide range of character voices, from Sesame Street's gravelly Cookie Monster to Watership Down's shrill Kehaar the Seagull.

With the birth of their second son, Abraham and Bonnie co-authored and illustrated a children's book, "Benjamin Mouse," depicting their growing family as a cozy mouse household (the family dog: a ladybug) to help their older son, Benjamin, navigate the transition.

Abraham later lent his voice to his younger son's Eagle Scout project to record children's books for Cleveland Clinic Children's Hospital, a project modeled on Abraham's visits with his late niece, Alana, as she fought childhood cancer.

Abraham was a lifelong teacher and learner. He took on leadership roles in Cleveland's Jewish education and Holocaust commemoration groups and served as an adult leader in scouting. A lover of the outdoors, Abraham delighted in accompanying his sons on backcountry canoe and backpacking trips.

Abraham was a Freemason for more than 20 years, joining and serving as Worshipful Master of University Heights Lodge, and serving in leadership roles in regional and statewide Masonic groups. He regularly wrote research papers and gave continuing education lectures on both freemasonry and law.

Abraham was an active member of the B'nai Jeshurun Congregation. A fixture at Shabbat and weekday services, Abraham is especially remembered as a student (and unofficial teacher) in the congregation's Torah study group. Drawing, perhaps, on his legal training, he was a consistent voice for nuanced and creative textual interpretations, embodying the rabbinical teaching that "there are seventy faces to the Torah." A key element of Abraham's Jewish life was visiting sick and bereaved community members; he tended to time his shiva visits so that they might align with when an extra person would most be needed to help form a minyan.

Abraham is survived by his children, Dr. Benjamin (Amanda) Kay of St. Louis and Dr. Sam Kay of Minnesota; siblings, Dr. Marsha Kay and Dr. William Kay; brothers-in-law Drew (Jan) Barkley of Pittsburgh, David (Susan) Barkley of Colorado Springs, and Rob (Dawn) Barkley of Columbus; and companion, Marcia Wyman. May his memory be a blessing. (*Excerpted from the Cleveland Jewish News*)