



The Sprig of Acacia



Euclid Masonic Temple

27271 Tungsten Road

Euclid

Ohio

216-731-9857

Volume 17, Issue 1

Second Wednesday and Fourth Friday

January/February 2021

"Use the Tools" Grand Master's Program

Acacia Lodge Officers

2020 – 2021

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TRESTLE-BOARD

All stated meetings start at 7:30 p.m. – Dinner at 6:30 p.m. and reservations are required, 440-257-6964

- Jan./Feb. Lodge Dark
- Mar. 10 Stated Meeting
- Mar. 26 Stated Meeting



From The East,

Greetings Brethren,

This newsletter will mark the fourth time I've addressed you from the East, and like the previous three times, it is an honor. Unlike my first three years, however, our Lodge—like the rest of the world—is facing the uncertainty of the COVID public health crisis. Therefore, our upcoming "Masonic year" is in a state of flux at this moment.

With the COVID vaccines being distributed throughout the country by the time you read this, there is hope that we can soon return to "normal." In fact, going "dark" for stated meetings in January and February will hopefully allow us to have as full and active Masonic year as possible.

I would like to thank my predecessor, Worshipful Brother Ted Daly, for leading the way in Acacia, response to the Coronavirus. I will follow his lead in holding all stated meetings by Zoom until Cuyahoga County is color-coded "orange" or lower on the State of Ohio's public health advisory system. Our first stated meeting will occur on Wednesday, March 10, 2021, and I will be in contact with the membership by email and telephone regarding the procedure for that date. I sincerely hope we can all meet in person on Tungsten Road by then!

Regarding social activities, I am preparing a tentative calendar of events for the summer. Last year, COVID concerns cancelled many of our traditional summer events like the Family Picnic and Lake County Captains game (the Captains, as you may recall, cancelled their season). Should circumstances permit, I am hoping to reinstate those events to our calendar in 2021. As summer approaches, we will know more, so stay tuned!

In all events, please plan on meeting with us virtually or in person on the second Wednesday and fourth Friday of every month starting in March. That is the best way to stay informed on upcoming social events and degree work. However, I also look forward to communicating with you via this space in the Sprig of Acacia and by email. Finally, I welcome everyone to reach out to me with your own ideas on how the Acacia's 2021 Masonic year should unfold. Best wishes for the New Year!

Fraternally Submitted with Warmest Regards,

Worshipful Master Mark Novak

"Good, better, best. Never let it rest. 'Til your good is better and your better is best." - St. Jerome

Greetings from the West,

Hello Brethren,

I want to start by thanking you all for your trust in me as you SW this coming year. I look forward to getting back to work this year. Most if not all of you know I have been gone for the past couple years. My family and I moved to Central Texas in 2017. We enjoyed Texas very much, but there truly is no place like home (OHIO).

During these current times (COVID) you may notice our lodge may have less in-person events then normal, but I can assure everyone that once all this clears up the WM has plans to get right back in the swing of things. The WM has many events currently in the works, and I am planning many for the following year.

I want to talk about one issue that is a tough one for every Lodge, Attendance. I understand that some brethren may struggle or find it hard to attend our meetings. Attending Lodge not only helps the Lodge, it also is a great place to socialize. We have a great group of men who regularly attend meetings, but always have room for many more. Also, our meetings are where you can find out about what events are coming up. You are also able to give your input and help make decisions on what events will be planned. Attendance at our regularly stated meetings is not mandatory, but if you are able and willing, **Come Join Us**. If you need a ride, contact me or any one of the current officers. I know for a fact that from East to West and from North to South can guarantee that one of us can pick up and drop off if need be.

Lastly, I want to personally extend my hand of Brotherly Love and say that if you find yourself in a position where you either pay rent/bills or eat during this current situation or know a fellow Brother or the family of a deceased brother in this situation please reach out to me. Now more than ever we need to keep an eye on one another and help each other until this all passes, and things return to normal. I can assure that all things will be kept confidential. Stay Safe and see you when we return on March 10th.

Your Brother
Chris Modica, Senior Warden
U.S. Army, Sgt Ret.

Remember – a bad day only lasts for 24 hours.

Gene Autry's Code of Honor

1. A cowboy never takes unfair advantage - even of an enemy.
2. A cowboy never betrays a trust. He never goes back on his word.
3. A cowboy always tells the truth.
4. A cowboy is kind and gentle to small children, old folks, and animals.
5. A cowboy is free from racial and religious intolerances.
6. A cowboy is always helpful when someone is in trouble.
7. A cowboy is always a good worker.
8. A cowboy respects womanhood, his parents and his nation's laws.
9. A cowboy is clean about his person in thought, word, and deed.
10. A cowboy is a Patriot.

The above article is provided by our Junior Deacon Bro. Craig Niederriter.

Dear fellow Acacia Lodge 651 members,

I consider it an honor to have been elected and installed as your Junior Warden going forward this year and the next. The year 2020 has been a serious challenge for us all due to the Covid 19 pandemic; however, we were able to stay connected for a few in person lodge meetings and some by zoom as well. We will be dark for January and February 2021 and hopefully we will be able to meet in person sometime in 2021 (sooner rather than later I hope). It is my plan to serve the Lodge in any way I can and most important, by attending our meetings in whatever venue we are able. So, let me say Happy Holidays to one and all and I look forward to when we all can meet "on the level" next year.

Peace,

Jeff Day
Junior Warden

Motivation is the art of getting people to do what you want them to do because they want to do it.

[Dwight D. Eisenhower](#)

Adieu, A Heart-Warm, Fond Adieu is a poem written by Masonic Poet Laureate Robert Burns.

Adieu, a heart warm, fond adieu,
Dear brothers of the mystic tie!
Ye favored, ye enlightened few,
Companions of my social joy!
Tho' I to foreign lands must hie,
Pursuing fortune's sliddery ba',—
With melting heart and brimful eye,
I'll mind you still, though far awa'.

Oft have I met your social band,
An' spent the cheerful, festive night;
Oft, honored with supreme command,
Presided o'er the sons of light;
And by that Hieroglyphic bright,
Which none but Craftsmen ever saw,
Strong memory on my heart shall write
Those happy scenes, when far awa'.

May freedom, harmony and love
Unite you in the grand design,
Beneath th' omniscient Eye above,
The glorious Architect divine;—
That you may keep the unerring line,
Still guided by the plummet's law,
Till order bright completely shine,
Shall be my prayer when far awa'.
And you farewell, whose merits claim

Justly that highest badge to wear,—
Heaven bless your honored, noble name,
To Masonry and Scotia dear!
A last request, permit me here;
When yearly ye assemble a',
One round,—I ask it with a tear
To him. the Bard. that's far awa'.

Masonic Trivia

1. How many overseers of work were at the building of King Solomon's Temple?
3,300
2. How long does a Grand Lodge dispensation last?
Until the next annual communication of the Grand Lodge.
3. Benedict Arnold was a member of what Connecticut lodge?
Hiram Lodge No. 1, New Haven

4. What is the name of the first lodge chartered by the Grand Lodge of Connecticut?
Moriah Lodge No. 15, Brooklyn, October 15, 1790
5. What did our ancient brethren think was the seat of fidelity?
Right hand
6. What time was the Grand Master Hiram Abif slain?
High twelve
7. Who is responsible and must approve the contents of the Policy and Procedures manual?
Grand Master
8. What is read aloud during the EA circumambulation?
133rd Psalm
9. What is the main purpose for the wardens' columns?
To inform craft which warden is in charge
10. What was the second grip used to raise Hiram Abif?
Fellowcraft grip

Dear brethren,

It has been my honor to be your Tyler for the past 9 years. As always, I will guard the outer and inner door to our lodge.

I will do my best to be a better man in 2021 and I hope that all of you will do the same. I feel the need to express the gravity of the next year of our lives. The Times are troubling, the Times are stressful but always remember your brothers are there to support and help you in any way possible. The year 2020 has shown that we are a resilient people ready for any task, any threat, any problem the American people can take it and lead us to a better life. Acacia Lodge and I wish you a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year, Godspeed.

Fraternally,

Jason R. Elliott, Tyler

A binary communication system, or binary code, the basis for all computer language and programming, was first proposed by G.W. Leibniz in the 17th century. George Boole and Alan Turing, among others, later developed the idea for programming computers. Provided by FactRetriever.com

This is the poem written by Robert Burns around 1788.

Auld Lang Syne

Should auld acquaintance be forgot,
And never brought to mind?
Should auld acquaintance be forgot,
And auld lang syne

For auld lang syne, my dear,
For auld lang syne.
We'll tak a cup o' kindness yet,
For auld lang syne.

And surely ye'll be your pint stowp!
And surely I'll be mine!
And we'll tak a cup o' kindness yet,
For auld lang syne.

For auld lang syne, my dear,
For auld lang syne.
We'll tak a cup o' kindness yet,
For auld lang syne.

We twa hae run about the braes,
And pou'd the gowans fine;
But we've wander'd mony a weary fit,
Sin' auld lang syne.

For auld lang syne, my dear,
For auld lang syne.
We'll tak a cup o' kindness yet,
For auld lang syne.

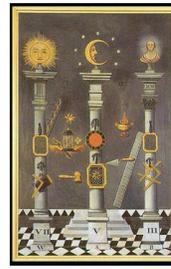
We twa hae paidl'd in the burn,
Frae morning sun till dine;
But seas between us braid hae roar'd
Sin' auld lang syne.

For auld lang syne, my dear,
For auld lang syne.
We'll tak a cup o' kindness yet,
For auld lang syne.

And there's a hand, my trusty fere!
And gie's a hand o' thine!
And we'll tak a right gude-willie waught,
For auld lang syne.

For auld lang syne, my dear,
For auld lang syne.
We'll tak a cup o' kindness yet,
For auld lang syne.

What is a symbol?



A symbol is a person, concept or object which stands for another idea, belief or entity.

Freemasonry is rich with symbols. One need only look on the outside of most lodge buildings to see the symbol of Freemasonry the square and compasses. Symbols can be difficult though and can be easily interpreted based on the personal beliefs or background of the person who views the symbol. A non-masonic and very dark example of this is the Swastika. For most in Western culture it conjures up thoughts of one of the darkest times in human history when millions were killed simply for who they were and what they believed. The Swastika has been used throughout the world though. In Hinduism it is a symbol of good fortune and was used for thousands of years prior to becoming a dark symbol in western culture. Depending on your personal experience you may view that particular symbol in a positive or negative way and your interpretation may have no bearing on what the next person sees in that symbol.

For Freemasonry the same can be said for symbols that we use regularly. A perfect example of this is the letter G which is often seen in English speaking countries in the center of the square and compasses. Depending on the jurisdiction and who you ask you may hear that the G represents geometry, God or the Grand Architect of the Universe. I am sure there are other examples of what the G may stand for. Regardless of which a Freemason believes it illustrates the point that a symbol is something that is unique to the person who views it, it therefore can be easily misinterpreted by someone who looks in at that symbol without the proper context or understanding. Often our symbols are twisted either intentionally or unintentionally by the outside observer. There are those that see pentagrams in the square and compasses saying that it has a dark or sinister meaning. In mathematics the pentagram can be used to illustrate the golden ratio.

In Freemasonry, regardless of jurisdiction we are all about symbols. It is only through education about those symbols that we can properly interpret the lessons of the Fraternity. Despite our best efforts to explain those symbols to the world at large, we are stuck with the nearly impossible task of convincing others to see those symbols through our eyes.

From "Today in Masonic History"

To our Junior Warden:

This year Acacia Lodge has a new line officer elected to the Junior Wardens station, Bro. Jeffrey H. Day. In recognition of his desire to assist our fraternity and our lodge the following is dedicated to Brother Day.

High Twelve by Robert Morris.

Now we hail the Junior Warden,
Lo, his column crowns the South!
Drop the heavy tools of labor,
Give the time to song and mirth.
TWELVE, HIGH TWELVE, the hour is sounding,
Noonday sun is in the sky;
'Come, the Social Lodge surrounding,
Filled with sympathy and joy.

Corn, that feeds the soul in fatness,
Oil, in radiant truth to shine,
Wine that sparkles in love-promptings,-
Come, ye weary ones and dine!
TWELVE, HIGH TWELVE, the hour is sounding,
Noonday sun is in the sky;
Come, the Social Lodge surrounding,
Filled with sympathy and joy.

How the Social Fire enkindles
These true souls on every side!
Could we ask for higher wages
Than our Master doth provide?
TWELVE, HIGH TWELVE, the hour is sounding,
Noonday sun is in the sky;
Come, the Social Lodge surrounding,
Filled with sympathy and joy.

Lord Jehovah bless our meeting,
Thou this time of joy hath given!
'Tis for Thee we toll and labor,
Own our workmanship in heaven!
When HIGH TWELVE by death is sounded,
And eternal rest shall come,
Grant us bountiful refreshment
In thine Upper Lodge at home!

Think

by Ed Halpaus, FPS

Supreme Architect of the Universe, "so far today, I am doing all right. I have not gossiped, lost my temper, been greedy, grumpy, nasty, selfish, or self-indulgent. I have not whined, cursed, or eaten any chocolate. However, I am going to get out of bed in a few minutes, and I will need a lot more help after that." Amen (Anonymous)

Many years ago some business' had short motivational posters, such as "Think," and "Plan Ahead;" sometimes the 'plan ahead' poster would be too short to get the "D" in on the last word, so it would be scrunched downward to illustrate how important planning is. That one always made me smile.

Those were good signs, but they might have been more effective if they both could have illustrated how important thinking and planning are.

"Think" can be an acronym for everyone to keep in mind. As a mnemonic it can help anyone enjoy life more: The mnemonic is "T.H.I.N.K." Before speaking think -

Is it True?
Is it Helpful?
Is it Inspiring?
Is it Necessary?
Is it Kind?

T.H.I.N.K.

Thinking before speaking, especially in a heated, excited, or humorous situation, conversation, or in writing, think about T.H.I.N.K. Doing this can do wonders in the many relationships we all have with children, spouses, significant others, co-workers, extended family, and also our fellow Freemasons.

From the beginning of our degree work we are glad to be in association with friends and Brothers, and they are happy to have us join with them in this great and good work. But there are times in the Masonic journey when rifts between Brothers will surface. And if left without of forgiveness, tolerance, and understanding rifts can become worse, and easily affect others too.

We are, after all, Masons; our tenets are Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth. We want to demonstrate Brotherly Love, not antagonism to each other; We

give Relief to the distressed, and if we are at odds with one of our Brethren it's very likely we're both distressed - the best way to give relief to the distressed in this situation is to forgive; And possibly we might both benefit by looking for the Truth in each other's opinions, rather than fighting so hard for our own.

John Maxwell suggests; to improve relationships we could use the 101% principle. This principle simply means that if we don't agree 100% with someone, we can look for the 1% where we do agree and concentrate on that. Minimize the other things we don't agree with. This leads to a less stressful life.

We want to enjoy life and Freemasonry; this is more likely to happen when we don't experience stress in our Masonic journey.

There is a prized book in my library by don Miguel Ruiz called 'The Four Agreements.' The four agreements are:

1. Be Impeccable With Your Word
2. Don't Take Anything Personally
3. Don't Make Assumptions
4. Always Do Your Best

The book goes into detail on each one of these.

I suggest that all four of these agreements - agreements with ourselves, individually, no one else, if we choose to do that - will add to happiness in life, and of course, happiness in Freemasonry.

Reverend and author Temple Hayes says we can all earn a personal PhD when we master Prayer, Humility, and Devotion. I will add that mastering this PhD will improve the Masonic experience for each of us individually and thus for all of us.

We can 'Pray' for our Brothers; after all Masons rejoice in each other's prosperity and promote each other's welfare; we can be 'Humble' in our own opinions, realizing that our Brother's opinions may have just as much validity as ours, and are offered to be helpful; As far as 'Devotion' is concerned, in addition to our devotion in our individual houses of worship, we can be devoted to our service to mankind - ever remembering the words of the 'charge at closing,' which says in part"

"Be diligent, prudent, temperate, discreet. Remember that around this altar you have promised to befriend and relieve every brother who shall need

your assistance. Remember that you have promised to remind him, in the most tender manner, of his failings, and aid his reformation; to vindicate his character when wrongfully traduced; suggest, in his behalf, the most candid and favorable circumstances. Is he justly reprehended? Let the world observe how Masons love one another.

"These generous principles are to extend further. Every human being has a claim upon your kind offices. Do good unto all. Recommend it more especially 'to the household of the faithful.'"

Peace and Harmony can prevail in our lives and our Lodges.

"Mehr Licht" or "More Light" is a publication of Ed Halpaus; to subscribe or unsubscribe to More Light send an email to erhmasonic@gmail.com

"Let the world observe how Masons love one another!"

Fraternally,

Ed Halpaus, FPS, FMS

The real secrets of Freemasonry are what happens in you!

No man can see into your mind or heart. No man can tell you how to apply the allegorical lessons of Freemasonry to your life, actions and character. These are the real secrets...it's all about how your mind and conscious uses the information that you are presented.

For Your Warehouse of Useless Knowledge

1. A 10-gallon hat barely holds 6 pints.
2. A fully loaded supertanker travelling at normal speed takes a least twenty minutes to stop.
3. A goldfish has a memory span of three seconds. (I know some people like this!)
4. A "jiffy" is an actual unit of time for 1/100th of a second.
5. A jumbo jet uses 4,000 gallons of fuel to take off.

Word Search
from this Newsletter

T R R X B L U N W K E R E K M
 F F R A O T E E M E E C L N O
 G G A D I D B A I T B O L I D
 Y R G R R C S R I D S D I H I
 R E A A C O A R E N A E O T C
 N C W N N W R C R T N H T N A
 O D L I D E O U A Y H O T W C
 S D C I D K B L S B P R D A Y
 A S T E R C E S L Y U N E S O
 M M I A R C H I T E C T E N B
 E N A Z J U N I O R F N G Y W
 E T A S L O B M Y S I G R R O
 R O Y U T X K A V O N N E T C
 F P T Y L E R O R N Q A A U Y
 C O V I D D R P I R G L T A B

ACACIA	ADIEU
ARCHITECT	AULD
AUTRY	BRETHREN
BURNS	CODE
COVID	COWBOY
DAY	ELLIOTT
FELLOWCRAFT	GRAND
FREEMASONRY	GREAT
GRIP	JUNIOR
LANG	LODGE
MASONIC	MASTER
MODICA	NOVAK
NIEDERRITER	SECRETS
SENIOR	SYMBOL
SYNE	THINK
TYLER	WARDEN

THIS ESSAY DESCRIBES THE ORIGINS OF MANY OF THE COLLOQUIALISMS WE HEAR. Check it out; definitely worth the read.

The floor was dirt. Only the wealthy had something other than dirt. Hence the saying, "Dirt poor." The wealthy had slate floors that would get slippery in the winter when wet, so they spread thresh (straw) on floor to help keep their footing. As the winter wore on, they added more thresh until, when you opened the door, it would all start slipping outside. A piece

of wood was placed in the entrance-way. Hence: a thresh hold.

Those with money had plates made of pewter. Food with high acid content caused some of the lead to leach onto the food, causing lead poisoning death. This happened most often with tomatoes, so for the next 400 years or so, tomatoes were considered poisonous.

Bread was divided according to status. Workers got the burnt bottom of the loaf, the family got the middle, and guests got the top, or the upper crust.

Lead cups were used to drink ale or whisky. The combination would Sometimes knock the imbibers out for a couple of days. Someone walking along the road would take them for dead and prepare them for burial. They were laid out on the kitchen table for a couple of days and the family would gather around and eat and drink and wait and see if they would wake up. Hence the custom of holding a wake.

England is old and small and the local folks started running out of places to bury people. So, they would dig up coffins and would take the bones to a bone-house and reuse the grave. When reopening these coffins, 1 out of 25 coffins were found to have scratch marks on the inside and they realized they had been burying people alive. So, they would tie a string on the wrist of the corpse, lead it through the coffin and up through the ground and tie it to a bell. Someone would have to sit out in the graveyard all night (the graveyard shift) to listen for the bell; thus, someone could be, saved by the bell or was considered a dead ringer.

And that's the truth....Now, whoever said History was boring?

Remember:

No one is listening until you fart.

A closed mouth gathers no foot.

There are two excellent theories for arguing with women. Neither one works.

Generally speaking, you aren't learning much when your lips are moving.

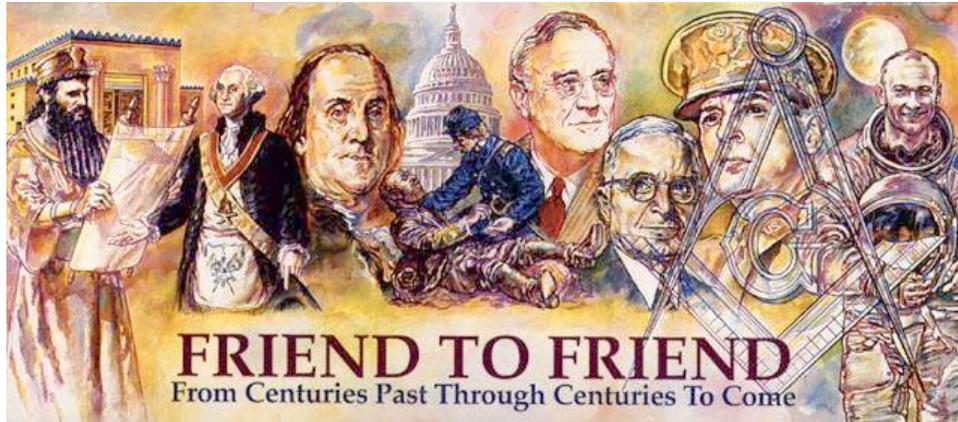
Never, under any circumstances, take a sleeping pill and a laxative on the same night.

TRESTLE-BOARD

Tear off and post on your refrigerator!

All stated meetings start at 7:30 p.m. unless otherwise indicated – Dinner is provided before each meeting at 6:30 p.m. and **reservations are required**. Please call James Cogan, 440-257-6964.

Lodge Dark	Jan. / Feb. 2021	No Meetings
Wednesday	March 10, 2021	Stated Meeting Lodge
Friday	March 26, 2021	Stated Meeting Lodge



James R. Cogan
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