



The Sprig of Acacia



Euclid Masonic Temple

27271 Tungsten Road

Euclid

Ohio

216-731-9857

Volume 18, Issue 2

Second Wednesday and Fourth Friday

March / April 2022

"Reflect on Freemasonry" Grand Master's Program

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2021 – 2022

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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

- Mar. 9 Stated Meeting
- Mar. 13 St. Patrick's Day at the
Music Box.
- Mar. 25 Stated Meeting – York Rite
Night
- Apr. 13 Stated Meeting
- Apr. 22 Stated Meeting
- May 11 Stated Meeting – Inspection
in Fellow Craft Degree

My wife thinks I'm too nosy. At least
that's what she wrote in her diary.



From The East,

Greetings Brethren,

I hope everyone has enjoyed the past 2 months while Acacia Lodge was dark. We did have two special meetings one in January to practice our degree work and one in February where we conducted the Entered Apprentice Degree in preparation for our masonic year which starts on March 9th. Also, we held two special evenings with our family and friends. On January 29th we enjoyed a night with the Monster's Hockey Team and on February 12th we celebrated St. Valentines Day at the Hofbrauhaus (see the articles and photos below).

As we return to our normal 2 meetings per month, (2nd Wednesday and 4th Friday). We have planned for a number of activities over the next few months for the members of Acacia Lodge. These events will be held both inside and outside of the lodge. Remember Brethren, these outside events are for you, your families, friends and **potential candidate's**. As the weather starts to break and the warmth returns to Ohio, Acacia Lodge will be firing up our grill outside as much, if not more, than last year. Between the Steaks, Burgers, Bratwurst, Sausage and the fellowship of Masons, there is no better place to be.

Attendance at our stated meetings has been good but, it can always be better. It would be great to fill the sidelines. Many of the officers including myself, are willing to pick up and/or drop off anyone who wants to attend any of our meetings and special events. Please call and ask us if you need any assistance.

I look forward to seeing everyone over the next few months.

Fraternally,

Christopher W. Modica, Worshipful Master

DALAI LAMA

He said, "There are only two days in the year that nothing can be done. One is called *yesterday* and the other is called *tomorrow*, so today is the right day to love, believe, do and mostly live."

Ruminations from your Secretary

“**Praxis** – practice as distinguished from theory, accepted practice or custom.”

What does this mean to you in your daily life? As a Freemason, a man, a father, a husband, a neighbor, in your life?

Praxis is defined as an accepted practice or custom, or an idea translated into action, or something in reality rather than something in theory. **Fasting as a result of your Christian faith and to atone for your sins** is an example of praxis.

As a freemason we learn various lessons in our degrees. Do we truly understand them, do we put them into action, are we living the lessons we are supposed to have learned? These are all questions that we should reflect, on a daily basis, as we interact with those around us.

Praxis is an accepted practice or custom, or an idea translated into action, or something in reality rather than something in theory.

These are some thoughts that ramble through me as I sit in lodge and reflect on the degrees, lectures and the brethren conducting them. Are we just learning the words and theory and not putting them into practice in our daily lives – **Praxis**.

Only you can answer this!

Fraternally,
James R. Cogan, Sr., PM



York Rite Night

On Friday, March 25th Acacia Lodge will host members of York Rite Masonry. This will include a discussion on the three organizations that form York Rite Masonry – Royal Arch Masonry, Royal and Select Masons and Knights Templar Commandery.

Grand Principal Sojourner REC Robert R. Nilsen and EC Mark Novack, DEO for 16th Capitular District will discuss York Rite Masonry with all the brethren.

Please plan on attending and bring all your questions.

The Masonic Services Association of America

“Every month since 1923 the Masonic Service Association has published The Short Talk Bulletin, which was to be an informative, chatty discussion of some aspect of Freemasonry: symbols, allegories, history, individuals, etc.. They are sent to all Lodges of the constituent Grand Lodges, and are intended to be read in all Lodges. Here, we are bringing all of these jewels of Masonic Light to life, so that Masonic Education may happen wherever Brothers are.”

The MSA has taken these short talk bulletins and turned them into podcasts that can be played on your computer or I-Phone, <https://shorttalkbulletin.com>. There are currently 318 episodes available that are sortable by title, volume number, and category.

This is an excellent source of masonic education that can be enjoyed by everyone.



In Memoriam

Brother	Passed
Dexter A. Rolla	December 23, 2021
Paul A. Hemmel	December 6, 2021
Henry H. Molenaar	January 23, 2022
Chester F. Willey, Jr.	January 25, 2022
Roger A. Kistemaker	January 27, 2022

They rest from their labors

2022 GRAND MASTER'S ONE DAY CLASS

The state-wide Grand Master's Class will be on **Saturday, March 26, 2022**. The Grand Master's Class for the 22nd Masonic District will be held at the **Lakewood Masonic Temple** at 15300 Detroit Ave., Lakewood, Ohio 44107.

Should you have any questions please contact Wor. Master Modica.

PUNOGRAPHY

A soldier who survived mustard gas and pepper spray is now a seasoned veteran.

I stayed up all night to see where the sun went. Then it dawned on me.

This girl said she recognized me from the vegetarian club, but I'd never met herbivore.

Masonic Word Search

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

Masonic Words

Anno Lucis	Ashlar
Board	Relief
Lebanon	Cedars
Clandestine	Corn
Wine	Oil
Form	Ephraimites
Garter	Rite
Guild	Hoodwink
Jubelum	Landmarks
Chargers	Royal
Arch	York

From the South

Dear Fellow Masons,

Going back in time, men were once primarily operative masons. They were “functioning or having effect” in respect to the buildings they were constructing. “In the operative lodges or guild lodges, they were not only labor unions, they were educational platforms as well. There, a young man who had little or no opportunity outside the lodge for education in the various arts and sciences found it within the lodge. Geometry, techniques for refining stones to fit them for the building were skills that were given to a young operative apprentice. He would also be taught how to read and write, two skills critical for making a plan for a building and following a plan for a building.”

Many claim that around 1717 speculative masonry began (per “Today in Masonic History”). Operative masonry, with little question, is the origin of the speculative masonry that is now enjoyed by fellow masons like us. “Eventually the individuals who would be called speculative masons would want to apply the knowledge they were receiving and what better way to than apply the tools to their everyday life”. Operative masons brought in all kinds of God-fearing men, some of whom were wealthy and influential. But it is clear, “someone who is ‘**on the level**’ in a speculative sense is being straight forward and honest. In masonic terms it means also that we are all equal”. We all meet “on the level” in that we are all equal.

The principals of free masonry have served us well over the years and thus help us to make the world a better place.

Fraternally and Peace,

Jeff Day, Junior Warden

What are the collective names for these animals?

1. A group of crows _____
2. A group of hyenas _____
3. A group of butterflies _____
4. An assembly of owls _____
5. A cluster of jellyfish _____
6. A group of vultures _____
7. A bunch of otters _____
8. A group of hippos _____
9. A group of lemurs _____
10. A group of alligators _____
11. More than one porcupine _____
12. A group of bats _____
13. A collective of wild cats _____
14. A group of ravens _____

Answers can be found on Page – 4

Science Jokes

There are 10 kinds of people: Those who understand binary and those who don't.

I was reading a book on helium.
I couldn't put it down.

Answers for group of animals:

1. Murder
2. Cackle
3. Flutter
4. Parliament
5. Smack
6. Crash
7. Wake
8. Romp
9. Bloat
10. Conspiracy
11. Congregation
12. Prickle
13. Distruction
14. Unkindness

Night with the Monsters

On Saturday, January 29th, Acacia Lodge hosted a great time with our members, family and friends at the Rocket Mortgage FieldHouse where the Lake Erie Monsters played the Scranton Penguins. The Cleveland Monsters fell to the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins 5-2 on Saturday night. With the loss.

We enjoyed center ice seats and food and an exciting hockey game.



Wor. Master Modica and family, WB Dave Ponsart and Karla, Bro. Arnie Smith, WB Mark Novak, and others.

"To be seventy years young is sometimes far more cheerful and hopeful than to be forty years old." - Oliver Wendell Holmes, Sr.

"Yesterday is gone. Tomorrow has not yet come. We have only today. Let us begin." - Mother Teresa



St. Valentine's Day Party

On Saturday, February 12th, Acacia Lodge held our Valentine's Day Party at the Hofbrauhaus, where we enjoyed good food, music and fellowship with over 50 brethren, family and friends.



WB Tim Gallagher, back row with his family and Bro. Jason Elliott and Theresa.



Chryis Modica, Pat Cogan, WB James Cogan, Jackie, Karla and David Ponsart, Caroline and Bro. Bill Wittlinger and Bro. Steve Mietus (cont. pg 5)



Please note that I had to wait until WB Tommy Lingle and RWB Greg Kita were eating before I could take this picture. The food was great and everyone enjoyed themselves.



WB Ted Daly and Linda, Linda and WB Al Paynter, WB Mark Novak and WB Chris Rieger and Friends.



The Wisdom of Children

The winner was:

1. A four-year-old child, whose next-door neighbor was an elderly gentleman, who had recently lost his wife. Upon seeing the man cry, the little boy went into the old Gentleman's' yard, climbed onto his lap, and just sat there. When his mother asked him what he had said to the neighbor, the little boy just said, 'Nothing, I just Helped him cry.'
2. Teacher Debbie Moon's first graders were discussing a picture of a family. One little boy in

the picture had a different hair color than the other members. One of her students suggested that he was adopted. A little girl said, 'I know all about Adoption, I was adopted. "What does it mean to be adopted?', asked another child.

'It means', said the girl, 'that you grew in your mommy's heart instead of her tummy!'

- 3 On my way home one day, I stopped to watch a Little League baseball game that was being played in a park near my home. As I sat down behind the bench on the first-base line, I asked one of the boys what the score was 'We're behind 14 to nothing,' he answered With a smile.

'Really,' I said. 'I have to say you don't look very discouraged.'

'Discouraged?', the boy asked with a Puzzled look on his face...

'Why should we be discouraged? We haven't Been up to bat yet.'

- 4 Jamie was trying out for a part in the school play. His mother told me that he'd set his heart on being in it, though she feared he would not be chosen..

On the day the parts were awarded, I went with her to collect him after school. Jamie rushed up to her, eyes shining with pride and excitement.. 'Guess what, Mom,' he shouted, and then said those words that will remain a lesson to me....'I've been chosen to clap and cheer.'

5. An eye witness account from New York City , on a cold day in December, some years ago: A little boy, about 10-years-old, was standing before a shoe store on the roadway, barefooted, peering through the window, and shivering With cold.

A lady approached the young boy and said, 'My, but you're in such deep thought staring in that window!'

'I was asking God to give me a pair of shoes,' was the boy's reply.

The lady took him by the hand, went into the store, and asked the clerk to get half a dozen pairs of socks for the boy. She then asked if he could give her a basin of water and a towel. He quickly brought them to her.

She took the little fellow to the back part of the store and, removing her gloves, knelt down,

washed his little feet, and dried them with the towel.

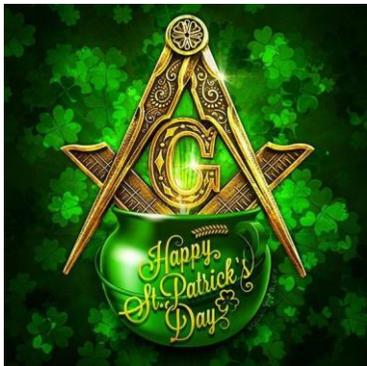
By this time, the clerk had returned with the socks.. Placing a pair upon the boy's feet, she purchased him a pair of shoes.

She tied up the remaining pairs of socks and gave them to him. She patted him on the head and said, 'No doubt, you will be more comfortable now..'

As she turned to go, the astonished kid caught her by the hand, and looking up into her face, with tears in his eyes, asked her: 'Are you God's wife?'

FOR ALL WHO LOVE AND CARE FOR CHILDREN

St. Patrick's Day Party



Our St. Patrick's Day Celebration will be held on March 19th at the Music Box.

Irish music, food, Fun, Fellowship and Friendship for Family and friends all invited! Cost per person is \$10.00 (adult beverages are not supplied by the lodge).

Reservations a must by calling James Cogan, 440-257-6964



YES, I'M A SENIOR CITIZEN!

I'm the life of the party.....Even if it lasts until 8 p.m.

I'm very good at opening childproof caps.....with a hammer.

I'm awake many hours before my body allows me to get up.



Magic Gives Back

Rick Smith is coming to you with some awesome news about their goal of using magic to fundraise for local schools – they are bringing a brand new show to the Mentor Fine Arts Center, including illusions, comedy, and special guests that you won't soon forget! Catch us for some Las Vegas-style magic in your very own neighborhood.

Mark your calendar and make your reservations for a Las Vegas style magic show with Rick Smith Jr. at the Mentor Fine Arts Center, 6477 Center Street.

Acacia Lodge purchased front row tickets for the 7:00 p.m. show on Saturday, May 14th. Reservations are mandatory and tickets are only \$10.00 per person for these reserved center stage seats.

Please call James Cogan at 440-257-6964 with your reservations.

Ahiman Rezon



The Ahiman Rezon is the book of Constitutions for the Antient Grand Lodge of England.

The Ahiman Rezon was published in 1756. It was written by Laurence Dermott who was the second Grand Secretary of the Antient Grand Lodge of England. The title is believed to come from Hebrew. There have been a variety of translations made available for

the title. The most common is on the original publication in its full title which is *Ahiman Rezon: or a Help to a Brother*. It is also believed to translate into "will of selected brethren", "Royal Builders" and "Brother Secretary".

Like *Anderson's Constitutio* before it, it is meant as a guide to new masons on how to conduct the affairs of their lodge and how to conduct themselves per the constitution of the Antient Grand Lodge of England. The book is actually indirectly descended from

Anderson's Constitutions. Ahiman Rezon was adopted from Spratt's Irish Constitutions, which was adopted from *Anderson's Constitutions*.

A major difference between the Ahiman Rezon was what Dermott placed in the front of the book. Instead of the history of Freemasonry found in *Anderson's Constitutions*, he inserted a parody of the histories of Freemasonry around at the time.

In Dermott's parody, he set's his history to begin before the fall of man in the Garden of Eden. It then revolved around four sojourners meeting in Jerusalem at the building of King Solomon's temple. This makes the four men more than 2,000 years old. Dermott described them as men of failing memories. There were six subsequent versions of the Ahiman Rezon Dermott wrote before his passing in 1791.

The original purpose of Dermott's parody was to attack the Moderns. At the time, the Premier Grand Lodge of England, was referred to as Moderns, a name Dermott is directly responsible for. The Moderns began moving away from the Ancient Landmarks of Freemasonry and Dermott began to refer to them as "knife and fork" masons due to their desire to be social masons instead of following the ancient landmarks. In the years between 1756 and 1791, when Dermott passed away he wrote the six additional versions and with each new version is attacks against the Moderns became more scathing. After the passing of Dermott, the parody was re-written and all of the attacks against the Moderns were removed.

Two United States Grand Lodges, the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania and the Grand Lodge of South Carolina, still call their constitutions Ahiman Rezon in reference to their connection with the Antient Grand Lodge of England.

In 1813, The Antient Grand Lodge of England and the Premier Grand Lodge of England merged to form the United Grand Lodge of England.

From – Today in Masonic History

Perspective,

For a small amount of perspective at this moment, imagine you were born in 1900. When you are 14, World War I starts, and ends on your 18th birthday with 22 million people killed. Later in the year, a Spanish Flu epidemic hits the planet and runs until

you are 20. Fifty million people die from it in those two years. Yes, 50 million.

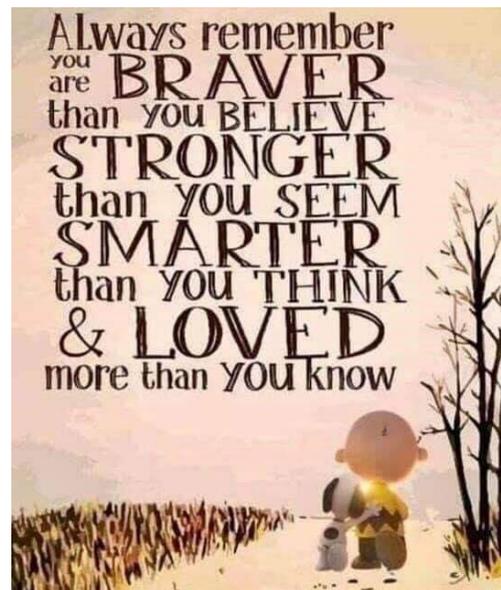
When you're 29, the Great Depression begins. Unemployment hits 25%, global GDP drops 27%. That runs until you are 33. The country nearly collapses along with the world economy. When you turn 39, World War II starts. You aren't even over the hill yet.

When you're 41, the United States is fully pulled into WWII. Between your 39th and 45th birthday, 75 million people perish in the war and the Holocaust kills six million. At 52, the Korean War starts and five million perish.

At 64 the Vietnam War begins, and it doesn't end for many years. Four million people die in that conflict. Approaching your 62nd birthday you have the Cuban Missile Crisis, a tipping point in the Cold War. Life on our planet, as we know it, could well have ended. Great leaders prevented that from happening.

As you turn 75, the Vietnam War finally ends. Think of everyone on the planet born in 1900. How do you survive all of that? A kid in 1985 didn't think their 85 year old grandparent understood how hard school was. Yet those grandparents (and now great grandparents) survived through everything listed above.

Perspective is an amazing art. Let's try and keep things in perspective. Let's be smart, help each other out, and we will get through all of this. In the history of the world, there has never been a storm that lasted. This too, shall pass.



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.

Wednesday	March 9, 2022	Stated Meeting
Saturday	March 13, 2022	St. Patrick's Day at the Music Box
Friday	March 25, 2022	Stated Meeting
Saturday	April 9, 2022	District Education – Trunk Show #2 – Dover Lodge.
Wednesday	April 13, 2022	Stated Meeting
Friday	April 22, 2022	Stated Meeting
Wednesday	May 11, 2022	Stated Meeting
Saturday	May 14, 2022	Magic Gives Back – Mentor, Oh

James R. Cogan
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