



# The Sprig of Acacia



Euclid Masonic Temple

27271 Tungsten Road

Euclid

Ohio

216-731-9857

**Volume 17, Issue 3**

**Second Wednesday and Fourth Friday**

**May/June 2021**

**"Use the Tools" Grand Master's Program**

## Acacia Lodge Officers

2020 – 2021

- W. M. - Mark A. Novak, 216-406-5856, markn95@gmail.com
- S. W. - Chris Modica, (440) 339-7092, c.modica@yahoo.com
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- S. D. -
- J. D. - Craig Niederriter, 440-884-1376, lowhorseman@aol.com
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- J. S. - Edward M. Herroon, 440-231-8865, edherroon@yahoo.com
- Tyler - Jason R. Elliott, 245-290-2268, jasonelliott91@aol.com
- Secretary - James R. Cogan, 440-257-6964, coganj@sbcglobal.net
- Treasurer - David P. Ponsart, 440-953-1726, grocerydude@att.net
- Chaplain - Jerald G. Dickerson, (440) 449-4639
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- Marshall - N. Allen Paynter, 216-346-3162, mrclean274@aol.com
- Organist - Stephen A. Mietus, 330-592-3054, hkmietus@gmail.com

## TRESTLE-BOARD

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

- May. 9 Mother's Day
- May 12 Stated Meeting
- May 21 Special Mtg - Awards Night
- May 28 Stated Meeting
- May 31 Memorial Day
- June 5 Fishing Trip – see article
- June 9 Stated Meeting
- June 25 Stated Meeting
- July 10 Bus Trip – see article

Be kind whenever possible. It is always possible. Dalai Lama



## **From The East,**

**Greetings Brethren,**

I am happy to announce that Acacia Lodge officially moved into our (hopefully permanent) “post-COVID” era last month. Although Cuyahoga and Lake counties have not progressed out of the “red” as quickly as we all hoped, circumstances led to us meeting in person for the first time all year on Wednesday, April 14. On that date, I am proud to say that we practiced a fine Entered Apprentice degree in preparation for our annual Inspection later that month. By the time you’re reading this, we will have—knock on wood!—passed our Inspection and moved on to the remainder of our 2021 Masonic year. We will be holding in-person meetings at the Euclid Masonic Temple on the second Wednesdays and fourth Fridays of every month through the end of the year. Remember—Acacia Lodge no longer goes “dark” in July and August, so please feel free to join us for Stated Meetings throughout the summer. (Disclaimer: should Cuyahoga or Lake County dip into the “purple” reading by the Ohio Department of Health, we will be switching back to virtual meetings on the Zoom platform—let’s (once more) knock on wood that it doesn’t come to that!)

Our next major event open to the public will be our Awards Night for the 2021 Masonic year. Normally, we host this event in the late fall shortly after the Grand Lodge’s annual Convocation. However, the COVID pandemic forced us to delay that event to this spring. Therefore, I would like to invite all of you and your families to Acacia’s Annual Awards Night on Friday, May 21 at the Euclid Masonic Temple. Dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m., followed by the Awards ceremony at 7:30 p.m. Currently, we have well over twenty brethren eligible to receive service awards. By the time you read this, we will likely have begun sending out invitations to those brethren. If you are reading this and believe you are eligible for an Award but have not been contacted by the Lodge, please do not hesitate to reach out to me or Secretary, Wor. Bro. James R. Cogan. We would love to hand out these Awards to you in person!

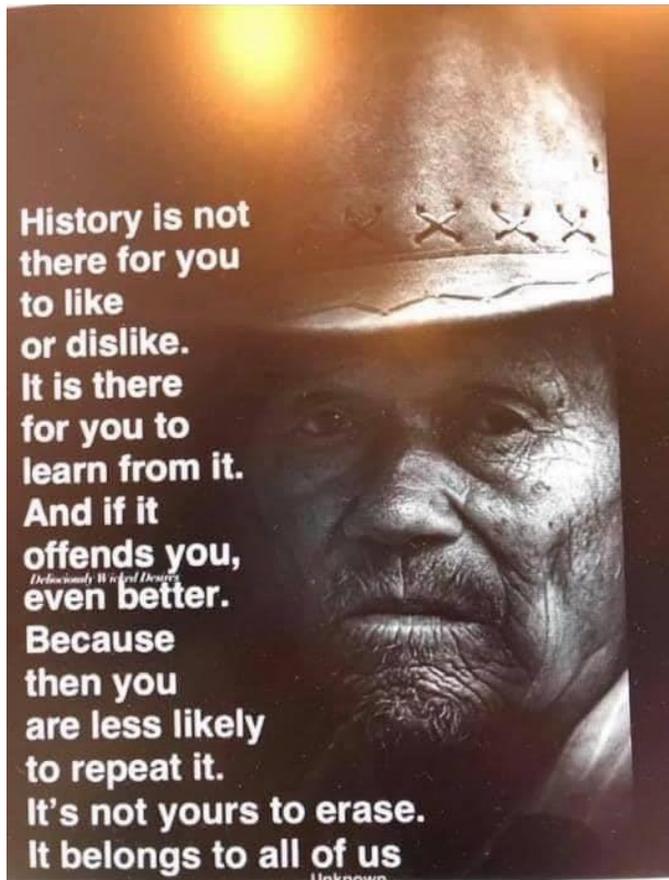
Finally, please take a look at our calendar for upcoming social events. Acacia Lodge prides itself on hosting several events outside the Lodge throughout the year. COVID prevented us from hosting our annual Christmas, Valentine’s, and St. Patrick’s Day parties, but we will be moving forward with a full social calendar this summer! Before we know it, the time will have come for our annual Fishing Trip in June, a trip (and tour!) of the Castle Noel Christmas store in Medina in July, a Lake County

Captains game in July, and a Family Picnic in August. I hope to see everyone there!

Fraternally,

WM Mark Novak

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### From the South

Hale Brethren,

My Brothers, I wanted to briefly talk about one of the great tenants of Freemasonry, that of Brotherly Love. While this pandemic seems to be slowly coming to an end, I encourage everyone to reach out to a brother that you have not spoken to or seen recently. Even if it is just a three-minute phone call or maybe you are able to meet for a cup of coffee. This small gesture goes a long way to those who have been couped up during this past year and may reignite one's passion in Masonry.

As Acacia Lodge gets back into the swing of things, I want to continue to encourage your attendance at our regularly stated meetings. Your attendance is the easiest and fastest way to be up to date on what's going on. Great things are happening at our lodge. Now, more than ever is the perfect time to join in promoting our this great fraternity to our new

members, and the officer core. The Worshipful Master also has some exciting events planned for his year that you won't want to miss. I look forward to seeing many if not all of you soon.

I leave you with this, The Wisdom from Past Masters and well informed brethren is always welcome and received with open ears.

Fraternally,

Chris Modica, Senior Warden

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### SHRINE NEWS

The Shrine is alive and well. The Al Koran Shriner's office is still in the Brecksville Masonic Temple Building. The Shrine is holding their business meetings in the Berea Masonic Center on Eastland Rd. in Berea, Ohio on the third Monday of the month. The meeting is at 7:00 p.m. with a dinner at 6:00 p.m.

The Shrine Ceremonial is June 5<sup>th</sup>. This will be held at Tabmor Shrine, in Akron. The cost of becoming a Shriner is "only" \$50.00 which includes a fez. So, if you are interested in becoming a Shriner or just would like some additional information about the Shrine please call me 216-346-3162.

The Shriners Burns Hospital has completely moved to Dayton Ohio. This is now called Shriners Children's Hospital Ohio. They are still doing all the wonderful things that they did in Cincinnati. Burns, Dog Mauling's, Birth Marks and pretty much any kind of plastic surgery. If you know of a child that we can help please let us know and of course the treatment is always at no charge to the family.

Shrine hospital drivers are still needed. You do not have to be a Shriner to be a hospital driver. We are starting to take kids to their appointment in both Erie and Dayton. If you would like more information on assisting these children, please call me. Again, thanks to our Acacia Lodge Brother Fred Freer and his wife for assisting in many trips.

The Shriners parade season is still on hold due to covid 19 so my little orange Korvette car is in storage for the immediate future. Hopefully, we will be able to get the cars out by mid- summer.

I hope everyone is well. Stay safe. Hope to see you soon at lodge.

Wor. Bro. Al Paynter, P. Potentate Al Koran Shrine

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If you fell down yesterday, stand up today. H. G. Wells

**Mother's Day Trivia Quiz** (answers on page ?)

1. On what day is Mother's Day celebrated in the United States, Australia and Canada?
2. In the Roman Catholic Church, the holiday is strongly associated with admiration for whom?
3. What President made Mother's Day an official national holiday in the United States?
4. Mother's Day is the biggest holiday in the United States for?
5. What is the traditional Mother's Day flower in the United States?
6. What is the highest documented number of children born to one mother?
7. What is the traditional Mother's Day flower in Australia?
8. According to recent polls, Mother's Day ranks where in terms of most popular holidays?
9. As of 2010, most births occurred in what month in the United States?
10. In the bible, who is credited with being "Mother of All the Living"?
11. On average, how many diaper changes will a mother perform by a baby's second birthday?
12. What percent of babies are born on their due date?



**In Memoriam**

<b>Brother</b>	<b>Passed</b>
Vasyli E. Haverlock	November 24, 2020
Richard R. Janda	November 27, 2016
<i>They rest from their labors</i>	

**Mothers Day** –Answers:

1. Second Sunday of May - It is celebrated on fourth Sunday in Lent in the UK.
2. Virgin Mary - There are a total of 188 named women in the bible.
3. Woodrow Wilson - In 1914.
4. Long-distance Telephone Calls - Valentine's Day is the busiest day for florists.

5. Carnation - The tradition started in 1906 when Anna Jarvis started wearing her mother's favorite flower, a white carnation.
6. 69 - Mrs. Vassilyev had 69 children between 1725 and 1765.
7. Chrysanthemum - The flower's name ends in 'mum', which is a common affectionate shortening of the word 'mother' in Australia.
8. Third - Right behind Christmas and Easter.
9. September - In 2010, more babies arrived in September than in any other month.
10. Eve - Eve was the first woman created by God.
11. 7,300 - About 10 a day.
12. Five percent - Boy babies outnumber girl babies.

"Fellow Craft"

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

Fellow	Craft
Hermon	Dew
Amos	Operative
Masonry	Shelters
Plumb	Square
Level	Uprightly
Beneficent	Speculative
Creator	Globes
Pillars	Invaluable
Instruments	Winding
Stairs	Doric
Ionic	Corinthian
Tuscan	Composit
Grammar	Rhetoric
Music	Astronomy

## The Hourglass on the Level



The Hourglass is an icon of Freemasonry with several different things represented.

The first actual sand hourglass is believed to have been invented sometime around 150 B.C. The actual invention of the sand hourglass is murky to say the least. It did not begin to be used in iconography, generally on coffins, until sometime in the 4th century A.D.

For Freemasons it's two biggest representations is time and death. Which leads us to another symbol and, some may say, a principal of the Masonic Fraternity, the Level.

The Hourglass representing time can have many meanings in itself. One is that we are all moving forward in time, unable to move the sands backwards up the glass. No matter our station or position that we may hold in life, no matter how many riches we may acquire the sand continues to move from the top of the glass to the bottom. In this matter we are all equal, or on the level with each other.

Another allusion that the Hourglass has is death. Sometimes the Hourglass is represented with a scythe further enforcing the concept of death. The scythe has a long tradition, particularly in Europe and the Americas of representing the Grim Reaper or the Angel of Death. It also is associated with the mythical figure of father time. In this allusion, death the great leveler is referenced. Again, regardless of station in life or wealth that we have gained, death comes for us in the end.

For Freemasonry, this is probably some of our more darker references. It can though be turned around, with the belief in the eternity of the soul. That time passes for us all and that death comes for us all is true. It is through the belief that leading a good, honest and true life that we will be able to one day turn the hourglass on it's side, stopping the flow of time as our good works here on Earth are recognized.

From - Today in Masonic History

## **Fishing Trip**

Greetings Brethren,

Summer is right around the corner and Acacia has reserved the Linda Mae and Captain Vidas for another Saturday morning fishing adventure on May 29<sup>th</sup>. The boat will set off promptly at 8 a.m. and head back in at around 1 p.m., so please come early as possible. Dock is located on East Island Dr. in Eastlake. Due to Covid-19 pandemic last summer the Captain and crew could not operate according to Governor's mandates, so we are glad to have the opportunity to once again gather and share some time together on beautiful Lake Erie. Though they are now permitted to operate again they do have some restrictions. Unfortunately, the maximum capacity for boat guests is only 10 people. We will therefore be restricting reservations to Masons and perhaps worthy potential masons. Passage will cost \$35 this year and will include snacks, beverages, lunch, and bait. Rod & tackle rental for \$10 is available on the boat, but not included in the fee).

Please do not hesitate to message or contact an officer for reservations. Should there be enough demand for additional fishing trips this summer? We can certainly discuss adding a second or dare I say third trip.

Join us this summer for our regularly scheduled stated meetings and help be a part of what makes Acacia Lodge so great. Need I mention Euclid Temple's fantastic air-conditioning for those who may just want to come cool off?

Be there or be square!

Fraternally,  
W.B. Tim Gallagher

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## **From the South**

Dear Friends and Fellow Masons,

In our last issue of "The Sprig of Acacia" I shared with you the fact that my father-in-law was a mason who I looked up to. That got me to thinking of all the other masons I might know or know of today and from the past. In a recent issue of "Emessay Notes" the story of James Cash Penney was shared.

"J. C. Penny was the founder of Penney's Department Store. According to a story about him in the August 1992 Scottish Rite Journal, Brother Penney was successful because of his basic

philosophy in dealing with people and the principle of **The Golden Rule**, which was ingrained in him as a young boy by his father, a small-town minister.

He later moved to Denver, from Hamilton, Missouri, where his attempt at business failed when he refused to provide one of the best customers of his meat market with a bottle of whiskey each week as a bribe. Later, while working in a department store in Wyoming, he turned down an offer for twice his pay to run a store for a competitor because he did not want to compete with his old boss.

Penney's real opportunity emerged when he became a partner in a new store in Kemmerer, Wyoming. By 1907, when he was 32 years old, he was a partner in three stores there, and later took another opportunity to become sole owner for \$30,000. (that investment today would be the equivalent of \$845,352.). He called his enterprises the Golden Rule Stores. His chain of stores grew, and within three years, he had 14 stores.

Because other stores had taken the name The Golden rule, he changed the name of his chain to the J. C. Penney Company. Penney's entire business philosophy was based on fairness to the customer.

(There is much more to his store,) but when he died in 1971 the Reverend, Brother Dr. Norman Vincent Peale delivered the eulogy at the funeral. J.C. Penney became a member of Wasatch Lodge in Salt Lake City in 1911 and later a dual member of United Services Lodge in New York. In 1958 he received a Gold Distinguished Service Award from Royal Arch Masonry and in 1945 became a 33<sup>rd</sup> Degree Scottish Rite Mason. He typically wore a large Masonic ring showing his pride of being a member.

Brother Penney did not like the word "employee," preferring to treat everyone as a partner, and calling each "an associate." He devoted himself to treating them as he would want to be treated were the situations reversed. He put the Golden rule into action and success."

Certainly, living by the Golden Rule can go a long way in the life of a mason and for mankind.

Peace and fraternal friendship,  
Jeffrey H. Day, Junior Warden



*Old Baal's Bridge c. 1830*

Baal's Bridge square is an artifact that was found in the foundation of Baal's bridge which spans the Shannon River in Limerick, Ireland.

Like the Regius Poem, the Baal's Bridge Square is something of an anomaly when it comes to the history of Freemasonry. The Square was found in 1830 when Baal Bridge which spanned the Shannon River was being removed to make way for the new Baal Bridge. It was dug out of the eastern corner of the foundation of the northern land pier of the bridge. It is presumed that the square was placed in the foundation by an operative mason.

The interesting question that the Baal's Bridge Square raises is whether the operative masons of the time were using esoteric teachings in their ritual. Taking the square literally at face value, it's inscription reads "I will strive to live with love & care upon the level and by the square", it does imply that operative masons may have been using esoteric lessons in their work. It could also imply that the square was the beginning of speculative masonry with it's more esoteric and symbolic view of masonic tools.

Along with the above mention inscription on the square, there is also a year of 1507. Because of the corroded state of the square the year 1507 has been changed over the years. This is further confused by the fact that no one knows when the original Baal's Bridge was built. At one point in time, the date was believed to be 1317, interestingly that would put the square in the same century of when the Regius Poem is believed to have been written (the Regius Poem is believed to have been written down in 1390). Later the date on the square became 1517 and eventually the 1507 which a rubbing of the square seems to definitively indicate. To further backup the idea that the square is more than 500 years old, there are

written accounts in town records of Baal's Bridge being in place in 1558.

The Baal's Bridge Square is currently being preserved by Antient Union Lodge No. 13 in Limerick, Ireland. Antient Union Lodge No. 13 is a "time immemorial" lodge meaning that it was in existence prior to the existence of a Grand Lodge.

Today in Masonic History

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### Columbarium

While in lodge recently, one of our lodge widows asked about a grave site. Acacia just, in the last year or so, bought several graves sites. As I understand it, the deceased brother's ashes will be interred there.

When we started to talk about this, I thought that a good investment for the lodge would be to use a couple of the grave sites to "build" our own Columbarium (noun: columbarium; plural noun: columbaria a room or building with niches for funeral urns to be stored).

While not inexpensive, it is more economical than regular grave sites.

This may be another way to serve our Brethren and family in their time of need. Please let us know your thoughts on this subject.

Don Ritchie, PM, LEO

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To a Freemason **on the level** means just that –

All Freemasons are Brothers who meet on the same level, regardless of their social or economic status outside the lodge. Princes, Presidents, and Leaders of business are no better or more important than bus drivers, plumbers and paper boys when they sit in the lodge together.

Freemasonry does not detract from a man's accomplishments, nor does it exalt him above his Brethren because of his position outside the lodge.

Freemasonry is personal, private and beyond description. We have rituals that we perform, like a play, that remind us of certain moral lessons, and hint at the antiquity of our craft. These are the material manifestations of what we do. They are no longer secrets, yet they remain private in most cases as every group or person has the right to personal privacy. They are the process of what we do. Just as what I do (for a living or otherwise) does not define me as a person, so the manner of what we do, does not define us as Freemasons. My obligations (oaths) make me a Freemason, and the manner in which I live and build my house of character show that I really understand and earn the title of Free and Accepted Mason.

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### **The Beacon Light by Rob Morris.**

A city set upon a hill  
Cannot be hid;  
Exposed to every eye, it will  
Over surrounding plain and vale,  
An influence shed,  
And spread the light of peace afar,  
Or blight the land with horrid war.

Each Mason's Lodge is planted so  
For high display;  
Each is a BEACON LIGHT, to show  
Life's weary wanderers as they go,  
The better way;  
To show by ties of earthly love,  
How perfect is the Lodge above!

Be this your willing task, dear friends,  
While laboring here;  
Borrow from Him who kindly lends  
The heavenly ladder that ascends  
The higher sphere;  
And let the world your progress see,  
Upward by FAITH, HOPE, CHARITY.

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**MY HOUSE GOT  
TP'D LAST NIGHT,  
IT'S NOW  
APPRAISED AT  
\$875,000**



# Christmas in July

**JULY 10, 2021**

ACACIA LODGE #651 OFFICERS & MEMBERS INVITE YOU TO JOIN US FOR A ONE-DAY ADVENTURE TO MEDINA, OH TO TOUR THE “CASTLE NOEL” CHRISTMAS SHOP AND DISPLAY MUSEUM. THE GUIDED TOUR LASTS JUST UNDER TWO HOURS AND INCLUDES AN OPPORTUNITY TO PURCHASE A NEW FAVORITE ORNAMENT OR GIFT. LUNCH WILL BE INCLUDED AS WELL AS THE BUS TRIP BY A1-LIMO.

**\$10.00 PER TICKET MEMBERS ONLY. FAMILY  
& GUESTS FREE. LIMITED SEATING**

### TRIP ITINERARY:

- 10:00 A.M. – BEGIN LOADING ONTO BUS
- 10:30 A.M. – BUS LEAVES THE TEMPLE
- 11:45 A.M. – ARRIVE AT “DINER 42” FOR LUNCH
- 12:45 P.M. – BUS PICKS UP & ARRIVES AT CASTLE NOEL
- 1:00 P.M. – 2:45 PM. “CASTLE NOEL” TOUR
- 2:45 P.M. – LOAD BUS FOR TRIP BACK TO TEMPLE
- 4:00 P.M. – ARRIVE AT TEMPLE



## 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.

Sunday	May 9, 2021	<i>Mothers Day</i>
Wednesday	May 12, 2021	Stated Meeting Lodge
Friday	May 21, 2021	Special Meeting – Awards Night 7:30 p.m. Dinner at 6:30 p.m.
Friday	May 28, 2021	Stated Meeting 7:30 - 10:00 p.m. Dinner at 6:30
Monday	May 31, 2021	Memorial Day
Saturday	June 5, 2021	Fishing Trip – See article above
Wednesday	June 9, 2021	Stated Meeting - 7:30 - 10:00 p.m. Dinner at 6:30 p.m.
Friday	June 25, 2021	Stated Meeting - 7:30 - 10:00 p.m. Dinner at 6:30 p.m.
Saturday	July 10, 2021	Bus Trip to Castle Noel Bus leaves at noon Dinner at 5:00 p.m. Bus returns at 7:30 p.m. RSVP

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James R. Cogan  
6130 Thistlewood Drive  
Mentor, OH 44060

