



The Sprig of Acacia



Euclid Masonic Temple

27271 Tungsten Road

Euclid

Ohio

216-731-9857

Volume 17, Issue 6

Second Wednesday and Fourth Friday November / December 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
- J. W. - Jeffrey H. Day, 440-449-2944, jeffreyhday@yahoo.com
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- S. S. - Chris J. Rieger, 216-548-4005, c.j.rieger@hotmail.com
- 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
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- 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

- Nov. 2 Election Day
- Nov. 7 Daylight Savings Time End
- Nov. 10 Stated Meeting
- Nov. 19 Awards Night
- Nov. 25 Thanksgivings Day
- Nov. 26 Stated Meeting
- Dec. 8 Stated Meeting –
Installation of Officers
- Dec. 11 Xmas Party – see article
- Dec. 24 No Meeting

Lodge at Recess during January and February



From The East,

Greetings Brethren,

As one Masonic year turns to the next, I want to wish everyone reading this a happy holiday season with your families. By the time you read this, I will be preparing to transition out of the East for a seat back amongst the Craft. While this occurs, Acacia Lodge will be hosting several events that I believe will be of interest to all.

First, Acacia Lodge will be hosting its Annual Award Night in recognition of those brethren who have earned recognition for significant years of service to the Craft. Ohio Masonry kicked off the 2022 Masonic Year with the Grand Lodge convocation in October; therefore, we will be handing out awards recognizing annual years of service. Please join us on Friday, November 19 at 6:30 p.m. for dinner and 7:30 p.m. for a public awards ceremony at the Euclid Masonic Temple. Both events are open to brethren and their families, and this is always one of our most well-attended events.

Recently, Acacia Lodge amended its By-Laws to reinstate our Stated Meeting on the fourth Friday of November, which is of course the day after Thanksgiving. For the first time in several years, Acacia will be holding a stated meeting this evening. W.B. Errol Savage has volunteered to preside in the East that evening and it promises to be a special, instructive meeting. Dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m.

I would like to welcome everyone to attend our annual Installation of Officers on Wednesday, December 8 at the Euclid Masonic Temple. On that evening, we expect to install our Senior Warden, Bro. Chris Modica, as our newest Worshipful Master in the East. I will be happy to turn the gavel over to Bro. Modica, and look forward to an exciting 2021-22 Masonic year. Dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m., with a tyled Installation to follow at 7:30 p.m.

Finally, please don't forget to attend Acacia's annual Christmas Party at the Temple on Saturday, December 11th! After an absence of one year due to COVID concerns, our Lodge will be reinstating one of our most beloved traditions. Food, entertainment, gifts for children, and a visit with Santa will be on the Agenda that day, and I look forward to seeing everyone there!

Fraternally,

Mark Novak, Worshipful Master

Greetings from the West,

As the Masonic year comes to a close, Acacia Lodge has had a very productive year. Attendance at our regularly schedule meetings continues to be good, the events, dinners, and social gatherings also are above average.

As the current Senior Warden, I am looking forward to an exciting, eventful, and enjoyable calendar for the 2021/2022 masonic year. If elected, I will strive to continue the great work that all the previous Worshipful Masters of Acacia Lodge have done. The Officers of Acacia Lodge have always and will continue to maintain a high level of ritual work and continue to provide great events for our members and their families. We will be working throughout the year to improve our ritual work and welcome any member who would like to learn the ritual or brush away the cobwebs by attending any of our meetings.

A few events that you may want to mark on your calendar are our tyled installation of lodge officers on December 8th and the Lodge Christmas Party on December 11th. Future activities that we are working on are Chartered Fishing trips, Captain's Baseball Game, Monsters Hockey Game, Nights at the Shooting Range, a few bus trips (destinations to be determined), Top Golf Outing, multiple dinners and parties at places including The Hofbräuhaus for Valentine Day and The Music Box for St. Patrick's Day, a Halloween event, and many more. Dates and times for these events will be available soon.

I also want to remind everyone, the easiest way to keep up to date with all the great undertakings that Acacia has planned is to attend our stated meetings.

Myself and your lodge officers are available to assist with rides if needed. We understand driving at night may be an issue for some and we are always happy to help get those who would like to take advantage of this offer to assist you in attending lodge and our events.

I am looking forward to the next masonic year and all the fellowship it brings.

Fraternally,
Chris Modica, U.S. Army – Sgt Ret.
Senior Warden

"Let us be grateful to people who make us happy; they are the charming gardeners who make our souls blossom." - Marcel Proust



In Memoriam

Brother	Passed
Leroy B. Davis	May 26, 2020
Robert E. Roffe	August 30, 2021
Fred Wuest	September 1, 2020
Donald R. Kristo	August 2, 2021

They rest from their labors

Don't Forget

During the Fall of every year, we are reminded to replace the batteries in our smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors as we begin to use our home furnaces, heaters and fireplaces. These are the major sources for fires and carbon monoxide hazards. Should you have any questions about these devices do not hesitate to contact your local Fire Department.

From the South

Dear Friends and Fellow Masons,

One of the more significant masons from our past was Tubal Cain, "the father of Smithcraft. He worked in gold, silver, copper, iron and steel." In the current internet issue of "The Grand Lodge of Ohio" an extensive article about Tubal Cain was shared by Albert Mackey. If you have not already signed up to obtain the information provided by the "The Grand Lodge of Ohio" I suggest you go to the "The Grand Lodge of Ohio" web site and sign up.

In the article it was noted: "Much of Freemasonry's core symbolism can be traced directly to Hebrew and Christian teachings and texts." "Among the figures adopted from the Bible for Freemasonry is Tubal Cain from Genesis 4:22. Known as the first blacksmith, Tubal Cain is a descendant of Adam and Eve and the son of Lamech and Zillah. While it is not known when Tubal Cain emerged in the ritual of Speculative Masonry, the famous Masonic author and historian Albert Mackey referred to him in his book A Lexicon of Freemasonry as the 'first to work in iron and brass'." In this passage, Mackey wrote that "Tubal Cain: introduced many arts into society which tended towards its improvement and

civilization. Tubal Cain is the Vulcan of the Pagans, and is thought to have been closely connected with ancient Freemasonry.”

“Tubal Cain mastered working with metals and forging tools and was the first instructor of workers in those meals, affording him a place of honor and respect in Freemasonry as a fore father of master craftsmen. His example as a teacher illustrates the value masons place on sharing their knowledge with their brethren.”

We are all “walking in the footsteps of Tubal Cain.”

Peace and fraternal friendship,

Jeffrey H. Day, Junior Warden



ACACIA LODGE #651

Come one come all to our Christmas Party

What: Acacia Lodge’s Christmas Party

When: December 11, 2021 from Noon to 4:00 PM

Where: Euclid Masonic Temple, 27271 Tungsten Road, Euclid, Ohio

RSVP – by December 1st to WB James Cogan and Lady Pat at 440-257-6964 with the number of adults, children, grandchildren or great-grandchildren, nieces or nephews, age and gender (Santa wants to make sure that he has the right gift for the children 13 yrs old and younger.)

Entertainment – Flower Clown will be present during lunch making balloon creations for the young and old. Magician Rick Smith Jr. will also be present during this time amazing us with card tricks. After lunch Rick Smith Jr. will perform his Magic Show in the Lodge Room.

Special Guest appearance by the man from the north.



Masonic Word Search

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

Masonic Words

Accord	Alliance
Ask	Badge
Benediction	Burial
Cabul	Craftsmen
David	Deacons
Deity	Emblem
Faithful	Hermon
Immortality	Innocence
Knock	Mystic
Porch	Seek
Servant	Throne
Valley	

From without the Inner Door

Hello brother:

I'm happy to see another year successfully completed and we are working for an even more prospers and enjoyable new year. We have a number of candidates that will be taking their first step toward the winding staircase to becoming a Master Mason. Remember that within your inner circle of friends and relatives there are worthy men who would make a good mason. Remember we should all “Replace Ourselves” within this great fraternity. Let us try to set a record on the number of new candidates.

Have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Fraternaly,

Jason Elliott, Tyler

60 yrs later:

Sometimes you just have to copy other's work because well it just makes sense! Thank you anonymous writer!

I have everything that I wanted as a teenager, only 60 years later. I don't have to go to school or work. I get an allowance every month. I have my own pad. I don't have a curfew. I have a driver's license and my own car. The people I hang around with are not scared of getting pregnant and I don't have acne. Life is great. I changed my car horn to gunshot sounds. People get out of the way much faster now.

Gone are the days when girls used to cook like their mothers. Now they drink like their fathers.

I didn't make it to the gym today. That makes five years in a row. I decided to stop calling the bathroom "John" and renamed it the "Jim". I feel so much better saying I went to the Jim this morning.

Old age is coming at a really bad time.

When I was a child I thought "nap time" was a punishment. Now it feels like a small vacation.

The biggest lie I tell myself is... "I don't have to write that down, I'll remember it".

I don't have gray hair... I have "wisdom highlights"! I'm just very wise.

If God wanted me to touch my toes, He would've put them on my knees.

Last year I joined a support group for procrastinators. We haven't met yet.

Why do I have to press one for English when you're just going to transfer me to someone I can't understand anyway?

Of course, I talk to myself. Sometimes I need expert advice.

At my age "Getting Lucky" means walking into a room and remembering what I came in there for.

I have more friends I should send this to, but right now I can't remember their names.

Sometimes life hits you in the head with a brick. Don't lose faith. I'm convinced that the only thing that kept me going was that I loved what I did. You've got to find what you love. And that is as true for your work as it is for your lovers. Your work is going to fill a large part of your life. The only way to be truly satisfied is to do what you

believe is great work. And the only way to do great work is to love what you do. If you haven't found it yet, keep looking. Don't settle. As with all matters of the heart, you'll know when you find it. And, like any great relationship, it just gets better and better as the years roll on. So keep looking. Don't settle. - Steve Jobs

Corn, Wine, Oil by Rob Morris

They come from many a pleasant home —
To do the Ancient Work they come,
With cheerful hearts and light
They leave the world without, apace,
And gathering here in secret place,
They spend the social night
They earn the meed of honest toil,
Wages of Corn, and Wine, and Oil.

Upon the sacred Altar lies,
Ah, many a precious sacrifice
Made by these working men:
The passions curbed, the lusts restrained,
And hands with human gore unstained,
And hearts from envy clean
They earn the meed of honest toil,
Wages of Corn, and Wine, and Oil.

They do the deeds Their Master did
The naked clothe, the hungry feed
They warm the shivering poor
They wipe from fevered eyes the tear
A Brother's joys and griefs they share,
As One has done before
They earn the meed of honest toil,
Wages of Corn, and Wine, and Oil.

Show them how Masons, Masons know,
The land of strangers journeying through
Show them how Masons love,
And let admiring spirits see
How reaches Masons' charity
From earth to Heaven above
Give them the meed of honest toil,
Wages of Corn, and Wine, and Oil.

Then will each Brother's tongue declare
How bounteous his wages are,
And Peace will reign within
Your walls with skillful hands will grow,
And coming generations know
Your Temple is Divine
Then give the meed of honest toil,
Wages of Corn, and Wine, and Oil.

Yes, pay these men their just desert,
Let none dissatisfied depart,
But give them full reward
Give Light, that longing eyes may see
Give Truth, that doth from error free:
Give them to know the Lord!
Give them the meed of honest toil,
Wages of Corn, and Wine, and Oil.

Did you know -

- The wired cage that holds the cork in a bottle of champagne is called an agraaffe.
- The 'na na na' and 'la la la', which don't really have any meaning in the lyrics of any song, are called vocables.
- When you combine an exclamation mark with a question mark (like this ?!), it is referred to as an interrobang.
- The space between your nostrils is called columella nasi.
- The armhole in clothes, where the sleeves are sewn, is called armscye.
- The condition of finding it difficult to get out of the bed in the morning is called dysania.
- Illegible hand-writing is called griffonage.
- The dot over an "i" or a "j" is called tittle.
- That utterly sick feeling you get after eating or drinking too much is called crapulence.
- The metallic device used to measure your feet at the shoe store is called Bannock device.

From the Western Reserve ARC – August 2020

Funeral Service

While at a church service recently, my pastor did a part of a service on Funeral planning, with his service he officered us a funeral planning Guide. When you reach an age when you start thinking about things like this, you "sit up and take notice". He brought up points that a lot of us don't think about until the "last minute". I copied this guide and made it available on our lodge web site. If you are interested in this "planning guide" you can go to, <http://acacia651.org/yourfuneral/>

WB Don Ritchie

Feast of St. John the Evangelist



"Today in Masonic History" we discuss the Feast of St. John the Evangelist.

The Feast of St. John the Evangelist is celebrated annually on December 27th and marks the mid-winter.

St. John the Evangelist, along with St. John the Baptist are the two St. John's referred to in Masonic ritual.

John the Evangelist, also referred to as John the Theologian and the Apostle John, lived from approximately 15 A.D. to 100 A.D.

In the Bible, the Gospel of John refers to an unnamed "disciple whom Jesus loved." It is believed that the Apostle John wrote the gospel because, in part, the author refers to James and Peter and is not claiming to be either of these two disciples. The writer of this gospel also is writing the Gospel in the light of the Synoptic Gospels which are the gospels of Mark, Matthew and Luke. This leads to the conclusion that it must be the Apostle John. The term Evangelist comes from a Greek word which means "writer of the gospel", it is also in reference to the Latin word evangelium. In most Christian traditions, the Apostle John is John the Evangelist.

John the Evangelist as a historical figure was one of the "pillars" of the Jerusalem Church after Jesus' death. He is believed to be the only one of the Apostles to survive until old age. The other apostles all having been put to death for their faith.

Some believe that John, around 95 A.D. was exiled to the island of Patmos. There it is believed that he wrote Revelations. This is a matter for debate though. Many scholars believe that John of Patmos was not John the Evangelist. Beyond the Gospel of John, there are many works that are attributed to John the Evangelist, most, including the Gospel of John are still debated whether John the Evangelist actually wrote them. There are some scholars that believe that the Gospel of John was not written by anyone named John. This debate has raged since 200 A.D.

For Freemasonry, the Feast of St. John the Evangelist was utilized by many of the early Grand Lodges in England and Scotland as well as individual lodges. The Lodge of Edinburgh was associated with the aisle of St. John the Evangelist in St. Giles Cathedral as far back as the 15th century. The Grand Lodge of All England, which was a masonic body located primarily in the city of York, as well as its predecessor the Ancient Society of Freemasons in the City of York, elected its President and, starting in 1725, its Grand Master on the Feast of St. John the Evangelist. The Antient Grand Lodge of England also elected its Grand Master on that day. When the Antients and the Moderns merged in 1813 to become the United Grand Lodge of England it occurred on the Feast of St. John the Evangelist.

Your comments and suggestions needed:

As the core of Acacia Lodge officers plan the next masonic year we would like to outline some activities that we are thinking about for you to enjoy and participate. This list is meant to tweak your imagination and encourage your participation in lodge and lodge activities.

The Grand Lodge of Ohio has decided to allow lodges to utilize virtual meeting technology during tyled and special meeting to facilitate business, fellowship, communication, education and other Lodge transactions. We will be working with this new technology to have some of our shut-in and out-of-state members to join us in masonic fellowship.

Also, we are looking at lodge and family events that may include Captains Baseball Game, Monsters Hockey Game, Christmas Party, St. Patrick's Day Party, St. Valentine's Day, Fishing Trips, Night at the Shooting Range, Top Golf event, Bus Trips, Mum Festival, Thank you event at the lodge for our local first responders and their families. These are only some ideas we are thinking about.

To feed our Masonic thirst we are looking at having the Type Written Ritual at Acacia Lodge, LEO Programs, Masonic Educational Programs, Lodge Visitations, etc.

We would like to hear from our lodge brethren to comment on the above items and add to them to improve our activities and your masonic experience. Please send you comments and suggestions to our lodge secretary, James R. Cogan.

Freemasonry and Religion



Freemasonry is not a religion.

Once Speculative Freemasonry began being practiced, it came to the attention of organized religions who viewed it as negative. There are a variety of reasons cited for the negative reaction and why they are opposed to the Masonic Fraternity. Often the reasons are based on information already debunked. Regardless of the information put forward to explain or persuade others the negative reasoning is untrue, the false information is held in an almost in a dogmatic way by some.

Most commonly claimed, particularly by Christian religions opposed to Freemasonry, is Masons are not Christian. In a sense this is true, there are people of

many different faiths who are part of Freemasonry around the world. Within the United States the vast majority of Freemasons are Christian, this is because Christianity is the predominant religion in the United States. In Turkey it is most likely Islam, in Israel most likely Judaism, the list goes on and on. Because of the multi-religious nature of its membership Freemasonry has chosen words to refer to Deity which are not based in any one religion. Grand Architect of the Universe (GATU), is a very common phrase used in Masonic lodges and ritual. It is a phrase which allows the individual to look into their faith and soul to determine their own beliefs. It also allows for the most important aspect of Freemasonry to take place, meeting on the level. When we are able to see past religious differences in our lodge rooms we are able to accomplish more with those around us and treat each other as equals, which is what "meeting on the level" means to a Freemason.

The phrase "Grand Architect of the Universe" also helps to get Freemasonry in trouble again with religious groups. There is confusion both outside and inside of the fraternity as to why this phrase is used. As was previously stated it is something meant to bring members together, recognizing every individuals right to their own faith and their own way of expressing their faith. Faith is important word when it comes to Freemasonry. Within the body of Freemasonry all who enter our doors are individuals of faith. This is not meant by the definition which classifies faith as a religion. It defines the more "generic" idea of faith, a belief in something unseen and intangible, yet we are confident it is there and we can trust in it. The ceremonies, ritual and methods of how faith is expressed is left to the individual Freemason to decide for themselves. Knowing the individual entering Freemasonry has faith is enough for the fraternity.

The idea faith is up to the individual may be where Freemasonry, particularly in the early days of speculative Freemasonry, came into conflict with religions of the time and perhaps still does. Speculative Freemasonry came into being largely in the years leading up to and through the Enlightenment. Freemasonry allows the individual to explore faith on their own, there is no push in one direction or another. In fact discussion of religion, just like politics, is forbidden in a Masonic lodge. It is not to be a forum to try and convince a captive

audience why they should or should not believe in one cause or another, or one religion or another. During the Enlightenment individuals started looking for answers to questions outside of religion, Freemasonry was the embodiment of this principle with many of its members being Enlightenment thinkers.

Regardless of the reason or reasons behind it, some religions and Freemasonry have clashed through out history. Regardless of those clashes Freemasonry has at its core the belief of equality to all and respect of the beliefs of the individual.

Things I've Learned

I've learned... That being kind is more important than being right.

I've learned... That when you harbor bitterness, happiness will dock elsewhere.

I've learned... That having a child fall asleep in your arms is one of the most peaceful feelings in the world.

I've learned... That the best classroom in the world is at the feet of an elderly person.

I've learned... That when you're in love, it shows.

I've learned... That money doesn't buy class

I've learned... That just one person saying to me, 'You've made my day!' makes my day.

I've learned... That you should never say no to a gift from a child.

I've learned... That I can always pray for someone when I don't have the strength to help him in any other way.

Mother Kilwinning



Mother Kilwinning is a lodge under the Grand Lodge of Scotland.

Kilwinning is listed on the rolls of the Grand Lodge of Scotland as number 0. It is referred to as nothing, not zero.

The origins of the lodge are claimed to date back to the 12th century. It is believed masons traveled from around Europe to build Kilwinning Abbey and established a lodge. Like many things in Freemasonry the farther back you go, the more difficult it is to prove what is accurate and what is

legend. In 1736, Kilwinning became a constituent lodge of the Grand Lodge of Scotland and asked to be recognized as the oldest lodge in Scotland. When documented proof was not available the claim was rejected and Kilwinning left the Grand Lodge of Scotland to become what is known as a Mother Lodge.

A Mother Lodge, like a Grand Lodge, can authorize the creation of subordinate lodges. Although the governance of subordinate lodges is different in a Mother Lodge compared to a Grand Lodge. Kilwinning did establish many lodges. The lodges they established were as far away as Virginia and included lodges in continental Europe, Scotland and Ireland.

In 1807 Kilwinning returned to the Grand Lodge of Scotland. At the time it was written Kilwinning "came once more into the bosom of the Grand Lodge, bringing with her all of her daughter Lodges."

Tradition has it the Worshipful Master of Kilwinning lodge becomes the Provincial Grand Master of Ayrshire. This was changed in 1983 when Kilwinning was moved to be subordinate to the Provincial Grand Lodge of Kilwinning. The Lodge now sends a representative to be Grand Bible Bearer for the Grand Lodge of Scotland.

Keeping with tradition for the Grand Lodge of Scotland, Kilwinning Lodge can confer the Order of Mark Master Masons.

From "Today in Masonic History"



"If only we try to live sincerely, it will go well with us, even though we are certain to experience real sorrow, and great disappointments, and also will probably commit great faults and do wrong things, but it certainly is true, that it is better to be high-spirited, even though one makes more mistakes than to be narrow-minded and all too prudent. It is good to love many things, for therein lies the true strength, and whosoever loves much performs much and can accomplish much, and what is done in love is well done." - Vincent Van Gogh

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	November 7, 2021	Daylight Savings Time End
Wednesday	November 10, 2021	Stated Meeting – Annual Meeting
Thursday	November 11, 2021	Veterans Day
Friday	November 19, 2021	Awards Night
Thursday	November 25, 2021	Thanksgiving Day
Friday	November 26, 2021	Stated Meeting
Wednesday	December 8, 2021	Stated Meeting – Installation
Saturday	December 11, 2021	Annual Christmas Party
Friday	December 24, 2021	No Meeting
Saturday	December 25, 2021	Christmas Day
Saturday	January 1, 2022	New Years Day
Acacia Lodge at Recess for January and February		

James R. Cogan
6130 Thistlewood Drive
Mentor, OH 44060

