

Barkley



Light

John W. Barkley Lodge No. 621, F & A.M.

Vol. LX

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2008

No. 1

HERE WE GO AGAIN, IN THE EAST AGAIN!

Some time in late September 2007, it was discovered that an opening now existed in the East. Then, as has so many times been said, "Remember November," and now I'm back.

With the short notice and few candidates, the job is to create programs for the Special Nights. Special events are in the planning stage, E.A. Practice, Table Lodge, Baked Goods Auction and Past Masters Night among the early few.

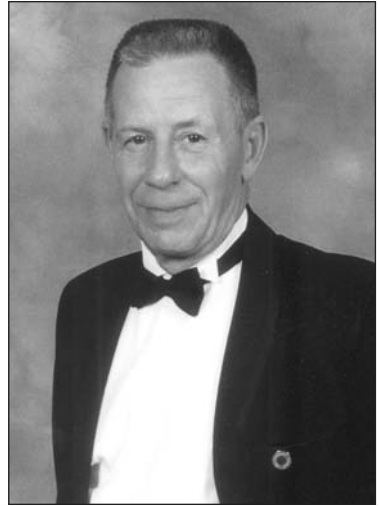
We are also working on having an exchange of Degree work with Quarry Lodge, a Degree at the Western Reserve Masonic Home in Medina, various speakers at different times, and (wouldn't you know it) Inspection in the E.A.^o on April 9, 2008.

While Barkley Lodge is known for good attendance and many activities, my fondest hope and prayer would be to see all the chairs in the sidelines filled every week. We have enough members to do that, and wouldn't it be great! The companionship is great, and the more in attendance, the more companionship.

When I wrote my first article, in December 2004, we were looking forward to Bro. Jason Stitak to be our inspection candidate in the E.A.^o. Now he is Senior Warden, and doing a fantastic job.

Brethren, please remember that your Lodge Officers, who you have elected, are donating the most valuable possession they have, "Their Time." Time is the one thing allotted on a limited basis, and when exhausted, cannot be replaced. The only thing they ask of you is to bring your smiling faces to Lodge.

Allan H. Warner, P.M., Worshipful Master



Worshipful Master
Allan H. Warner, P.M.

Article VII – Each member shall pay annually, in advance, the sum of FORTY DOLLARS into the funds of the Lodge, at or before the November stated meeting for the election of officers.

FROM THE DESK OF YOUR SECRETARY JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 2008

In my dream I talked to Santa, and he asked me what I wanted. I told him I would like all of the Brethren of the Lodge to send in their 2008 dues by mid-December. He said not even he could make that happen. Then I woke up and found out it was a nightmare.

At the time of this writing in early December, I still have not heard from 8% of the Brethren. This is better than last year, but it should be better. The final dues notices were sent out on December 15th. Please, Brethren, just send in your 2008 dues of \$40.00 A.S.A.P. If paying your 2008 dues is a problem, you deserve to let the Lodge know of your situation. Maybe we can help in some way.

I have picked up a few more Brethren with an e-mail address. Surprisingly, 43% of our Brethren have e-mail.

If you would like to be added to the Lodge e-mail database, please e-mail

me at robert.jr2176@sbcglobal.net. This way we can keep you informed of upcoming activities, events, dinners, illness and/or deaths in a very timely manner.

I am trying to keep our roster of the members as current as possible. Please help us by letting us know of your address change before you move if at all possible, so we can continue to send you the *Barkley Light* to the correct address.

I can always use some more Brethren to help with the call committee. This committee was used a few times this last year. I also need a lot of alternates to make it work as not everyone is at home when I call them. You need to have a current call list in order to make it work, as I don't know what page I will need you to call. I made up a new print-out of the Barkley members in September 2007, and if you would like one, please come to lodge and pick one up.

Please try to bring in a least one new member into the Lodge so it may continue to exist for many years to come. *Please bring one in!* If you need a petition just call the Secretary at 216-521-5557 and I will send you one A.S.A.P.

Read your TRESTLE BOARD, put the dates in your date book, and support your Lodge by trying to attend as many functions as you can. *This is your Lodge, please support it.*

I hope you have a Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

There are no strangers here, only friends you have not as yet met.

Fraternally,
Your Secretary
Bob Hubert, Jr.
robert.jr2176@sbcglobal.net

BARKLEY LIGHT

**Founded in 1949 as Laurel Light
by WB Michael T. Dennis &
WB Lawrence C. Boyd, Sr.**

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2007

OFFICERS

2008

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Alan Jackson H/440-572-1219	Senior Steward Jimmy D. Scott, PM. B/216-244-0607 H/216-252-8113

**OFFICERS: Please contact the Master 24 hours in advance,
 if possible, of your having to miss any meeting.**

APRONS AND BADGES – More and more of the **Past Masters** of our Lodge continue to be caught displaying their award, or **reward**, for their many years of dedication to our fraternity, wearing their **Past Masters Apron** to demonstrate their belief in the teachings of the lessons of Freemasonry, and the time they devoted to perpetuate those teachings. I encourage **ALL Past Masters** to bring their **Apron** out of hiding and join US displaying them at our meetings, and all other **Masonic meetings**. You’ve worked hard to earn it, some more than once; let’s be Proud of it. If you do not want to carry it back and forth each week, we can store it for you at the Tyler’s station or in our locked office. Let’s go for **100% PAST MASTER’S APRONS!**

And wearing your **name badge** to our meetings and other functions enables new members and visitors to recognize your affiliation with the fraternity, as well as identifying some brothers who have been away on extended journeys. It may also prompt some non-Masons to ask questions, like **“How can I become a member?”** This is even more important now with a greater number of Brethren and their ladies coming together as one big, happy family. And more and more visiting brethren in our chambers, too. Let’s get our name badges out of the drawers and onto our jackets. Many do already, let’s increase that number to 100%, too.

Advertising in the Barkley (Laurel) Light Since 1949

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WELFARE

- Bro. Ed Hallman is recovering from shoulder surgery in mid-November.
- Bro. Bill Ryan was hospitalized for most of November with hip replacement and an infection. We hope he's recovering well.
- Bro. George McCullough is struggling with blocked arteries.
- WB James Segner is undergoing painful radiation treatments. Our thoughts and prayers are with him during this difficult time.
- Bro. George Roscoe is awaiting a knee replacement (right), and is looking forward to attending meetings again afterward.
- WB James Schultz, 33°, underwent surgery for a torn rotator cuff and muscle and ligament damage on December 5th. He went home the next day, and we wish him a speedy recovery. I'm sure calls, cards and visits would be welcomed by WB Jim.
- Bro. Arthur Chipchase is in Royal Oak Nursing Home.
- Louise Cygan, wife of P.M. Robert A., and mother of R.W.B. Robert C. Cygan, recently underwent cataract surgery. We hear that she is doing fine.
- Gary Loshelder, husband of WB Robert A. Cygan's cousin, passed away on November 25, 2007.
- Charles G. Schlatterbeck, brother of WB William L. Schlatterbeck, passed away on November 28, 2007.
- The Duman Family Brothers, Donald, James and Robert, recently witnessed the passing of their mother.
- WB Raymond Leuenberger passed away on December 15, 2007.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to all who may have lost a beloved family member, and/or undergone recent surgery, or soon will be.

THE VIEW FROM THE WEST

But, alas, we are at the New Year, literally and masonically speaking. Barkley Lodge installed its new officers this past November and has been busy ever since. Toward the end of November the Lodge got together for a fundraiser to benefit our #741 scholarship fund at Max & Erma's in Brooklyn. This was the first time we tried this out, and not only did we have an excellent turnout, but also a great time. Thank you to all who stopped out.

In December, we had a special visit from Santa at our Lodge Christmas party. Kids were able to get their faces painted, have balloon animals made, and there were sweets for all to eat! It was a great time for both young and old! Once again we conducted shut-in visitations for our Brethren who are not able to make it out. We have had great success with this program, and we try to get out multiple times a year to visit our sick and distressed Brothers. On December 12th we also had our awards night. Congratulations to our new 25- and 50+-year members, we appreciate your years of service to this great Fraternity.

In January we will start gearing up for inspection. We have an EA practice scheduled for January 9th. We are also having our Lodge "after holiday" party on January 12th at Dimitris in Parma, reservations are required (please see our Senior Deacon). On January 23rd, we are having our annual Table Lodge at 6:30 p.m.; the cost is \$10.00 (and once again, please see our Senior Deacon for reservations).

We then move into February along with a lot of snow and bad weather. Be ready for our Pot Luck Dinner/Baked Goods Auction for the Coates-Alcott fund. Our February closes with Past Masters night. Please check your *Barkley Light* or our Lodge website at www.barkleylodge621.org for news and events.

As these winter months move upon us, please be extra careful outside and especially on the roads.

Bro. Jason L. Stitak, SW

AREA HAS NEW I-CARE COORDINATOR

Jan Rookard has 14 years of experience in social work, having worked with children's services and home health care. Masonic Senior Services welcomes her as the I-CARE coordinator for the Northeast Ohio area.

Jan said she's excited about this opportunity for several reasons. First, several family members have Masonic backgrounds. Her dad, Gene Scruggs, is a 32nd degree Master Mason and has been involved in Prince Hall for more than 50 years. He has been a member of Mt. Calvary Lodge #76, Zerubbabel Chapter #40 in Akron and Bezaleel Consistory Chapter #15 in Cleveland. Jan's late father-in-law, Howard Rookard Sr., was a 33rd degree Mason with Mount Calvary Lodge #76. He brother-in-law, Douglas Rookard, was raised in Phoenix Lodge #112, and also became affiliated with King David Lodge #116, John C. Logan Chapter #53 and several other organizations.

When the chance to join the I-CARE team arose, Jan said she immediately contacted her dad to learn more about the fraternity. It inspired Gene, in turn, to get involved deeper in Masonry. Knowing she's involved with something her father feels deeply about along with being able to help people is a winning combination for Jan. "I'm glad to be at the grass roots of this," she said. "It's very exciting."

Jan replaced Kimberly Howett as the Northeast coordinator. She covers Districts 20, 21, 22, 24 and 25. Jan can be contacted at 330-730-7718 or 800-901-1431. For information on I-CARE, call 888-286-0010.

TRESTLE BOARD JANUARY - MARCH

*Stated Meetings, 7:30 PM first and third Wednesdays, September-June
Special meetings as announced herein and/or by other special notification.*

JANUARY 2008

- Wednesday 2 . . . Stated meeting, 7:30 p.m.
- Wednesday 9 . . . Special - E.A.° practice, 7:30 p.m.
- Saturday 12 . . . After Holiday Lodge Party, 5:00 p.m.,
at Dimitri's, 1830 Snow Road, Parma
- Wednesday 16 . . . Stated meeting, 7:30 p.m.
- Friday 18 . . . 22nd District Bi-Centennial Founder Day Dinner Dance
- Wednesday 23 . . . Table Lodge, Dinner at 6:30 p.m., \$12.00,
Reservations required, Beef or Lamb
RWB William Grater, speaker on Masonic Law
- Wednesday 30 . . . Pot Luck Dinner, 6:30 p.m., followed by Terry Burcel
giving a Music Lovers Organ Concert (accepted
donations will contribute to the organ)

FEBRUARY 2008

- Wednesday 6 . . . Stated Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
- Wednesday 13 . . . Pot Luck Dinner, 6:30 p.m., followed by
Annual Dessert Auction, benefits the Coates-Alcot Fund
- Wednesday 20 . . . Stated Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
- Wednesday 27 . . . Past Master Night, dinner @ 6:30 p.m., \$10.00
Paid reservations required, Honorees Eat Free

MARCH 2008

- Wednesday 5 . . . Stated Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
- Wednesday 12 . . . Special Meeting, TBD
- Wednesday 19 . . . Stated Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
- Wednesday 26 . . . Special Meeting, 7:30 p.m., E.A.° practice

HELP WANTED! A FEW GOOD MEN NEEDED!

... who are caring and thoughtful, to volunteer to visit the Brecksville VA Hospital every third Sunday of the month.

They will assist Veterans in wheelchairs to attend church services.

Approximate hours of service dedicated to those who have defended our Freedom and Liberty with their own Lives and Freedom is 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

Please contact W.B. Robert L. Carpenter, 216-741-3326, for arrangements to meet and ride share. Thank you.



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COMPUTER TECHNICAL TIPS AND ALERTS

As a matter of background, I've been around electronics since high school. I'm a graduate of DeVry Tech. I've built and repaired computers since 1983.

Today, we have not only viruses, Trojan Horses, worms, etc. that have become an increasing and serious problem for computer owners, but even worse are spyware software, cookies and the like. Even the XP operating system allows Microsoft to gather information should your computer "crash" and even spyware and anti-virus software through its updates will enable that vendor to view your computer.

Almost all software systems installed on your computer have the ability to update its system automatically through an on-line connection. In short, your computer is always "on" and available to internet sources you may know nothing about. That means that whatever you think is private, may not be. Thus, an invasion of your privacy.

The suggestion from my experience is this: If there is any information you would not want to share with the world, such as bank account information, stocks, records, personal photos, etc., disconnect that computer from the internet. Keep that information in a computer that does not go on-line and store that kind of information on CDs. But don't assume because the information is on a CD that it is not on your computer. Wrong. The computer may also store that ghost information in machine language, hidden files and temp files. If you want it to remain private, do not go online.

Another point is this: Spyware software from different manufacturers installed on the same computer may discover different information when compared with each other, when checking your system. Some detection systems may even delete non-infection type of information, disabling a function of the computer. I've had this happen. In addition, anti-virus software may be a resource hog slowing down your system. If a computer never goes on-line there is no need for anti-anything software.

The original spyware infection, cookies, etc., is gained through on-line web site connections. Cookies placed on your computer when you visit most sites to track your activity and even use your computer as a hub to transmit your information to other computers.

Most people may not have the resources to own two or three computers, but an old Windows 98, or newer XP, will suffice to hold the information you would not want shared with the world. Save for encryption, there are no other safeguards to my knowledge. I welcome your comments and questions.

Ross Brockhagen, RWB, PM



BROTHERLY LOVE

Our Most Worshipful Brother Benjamin Franklin, Past Grand Master of Pennsylvania, was not a member of, nor did he support, any organized church. He professed that he believed in God and further believed that the best way to worship God was to be kind and love God's other children. This is but one example of Brotherly Love and is one way in which MWB Franklin chose to practice the tenets of Masonry.

Masonry teaches that the supreme goal of life is the attainment of "Brotherly Love," the ability to work in harmony and peace with our Brethren. This concept of brotherly love is one of the first lessons taught us as Entered Apprentice Masons. Together with relief and truth it is one of the three great tenets of a Mason's profession. By the exercise of *Brotherly Love* we are taught to regard the entire human race as one family regardless of perceived social standing or economic position. We are taught that we were created by one Almighty Parent and that we need to aid and support one another. Through the teachings of Masonic principles men of every nation, sect and opinion can be united and exist with one another in true friendship.

The working tools of a Master Mason are all of the implements of Masonry, but more especially the trowel. By use of this instrument we are taught to spread the cement of "Brotherly Love" and Affection, which is symbolically the cement that unites us into one sacred band of friends and brothers. How many times have we heard those words? How many times have we really listened to them?

Brotherly Love is not found in beautiful words, it is not found in public works, it is not ostentation, it is not done for glory, for these things can never be recorded as the real essence of Masonry. Brotherly Love is the kind word spoken quietly, it is the little acts of kindness when the soul yearns for aid and comfort, it is in the little touch of love given when the heart is breaking, it is when your life touches another life in accord. We should remember that the most enduring things in life are not what we have, but what we give away. If Masonry teaches us anything, it teaches that life is too short for its quarrels and its bickerings; that life is for friendship, fellowship and *Brotherly Love*. Masonry is judged by the world, not by

our increase in membership or our financial position, but Masonry is judged by our conduct as individual Masons and by the contribution we make to the life and welfare of our community and our concern and caring for humanity's needs.

Go forth into the world and practice "Brotherly Love." Live your life so that it will echo and re-echo acts of kindness and forbearance one toward another as brothers in love and service and spread the cement of "Brotherly Love" and Affection.

James T. Schultz, LEO

ONE OF MY FAVORITE PSALMS

When you come to the Red Sea place in your
life

In spite of all you can do

There is no way back, there is no way round

There is no way, but through

Then know God with a soul serene
and the dark and the storm are gone

God stills the wind

God stills the waves

God says to your soul "go on"

from Teaching of the Masters of the Far East,
by Baird T. Spalding
submitted by: Brian Donovan, J.W.

GRAND LODGE ACTION OF OCTOBER 2007

The following is a synopsis of the 198th Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Ohio, held on October 19 and 20, 2007, in Cincinnati, Ohio. This is offered for informational purposes only.

NEW LEGISLATION ADOPTED

- Code Section 43.01** Eliminates exact reference to number of districts and Trial Regions permitted in Ohio.
- Code Section 5.02** Increases mileage for Grand Lodge delegates from 25 cents to 35 cents a mile.
- Code Section 11.04** Changes word, "Communitistic" to "Subversive Organizations."
- Code Section 9.01** Increases from \$10,000 to \$25,000 the level when expenditures need Grand Lodge Temple Committee approval.
- Code Section 26.01** Permits balloting on multiple candidates at one time.
- Code Section 34.03(b)** Permits Lodge participation in civic events with DDGM approval, no dispensation needed.

LEGISLATION DEFEATED

- Code Section 27.03(a)** Would have permitted Lodges to confer degrees on multiple candidates.
- Code Section 6.01** Would have increased per capita payment rate to Grand Lodge \$1.25 each year for four years.
- Code Section 8.02** Would have simplified procedures for chartering new Lodges.
- Code Section 21.01** Would have reduced number of Lodge stated meetings required to 4 in a calendar year.
- Code Section 23.01** Would have changed residency requirements for membership.
- Code Section 27.01** Would have changed requirements for degrees to be presented each year by each Lodge.
- Code Section 34.01(f)** Would have deleted this subsection concerning unauthorized rituals.
- Code Section 34.02** Would have allowed alcohol in Masonic Temples under certain conditions.
- Code Section 35.01** Would have changed rules for amending Code and for permitting immediate consideration.

LEGISLATION RULED NOT IN GOOD FORM AND NOT CONSIDERED

- Code Section 11.05** Would have permitted raffles in Lodges.

ATTEMPT FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION DEFEATED

- Code Section 27.02** Would add word, "Memorization" to Minimum Proficiency; will be considered in 2008.

NEW LEGISLATION SUBMITTED

Proposed Legislation

- Resolution No. 10** Would update Grand Lodge pension program.
- Resolution No. 5** Would reduce penalty for lost ritual from \$50 to \$20.
- Code Section 26.05(b and c)** Would change method of making an objection to a candidate.
- Code Section 6.01** Would increase per capita payment rate to Grand Lodge \$1.25 each year for 4 years.
- Code Section 23.01 and 23.02** Would permit a Waiver of Jurisdiction from another Grand Jurisdiction.

The following is a brief review of some of the membership statistics of the Grand Lodge of Ohio in the year ending July 31, 2007.

There were ten Lodges not represented at Grand Lodge this year.

Total Gains (raised, affiliated, reinstated, new plural memberships)	5,253
Total Losses, deaths	3,911
Total Losses, NPD	2,399
Total Losses, all categories	<u>7,080</u>
Net Loss	-1,827
Membership as of July 31, 2007	114,661
(2006 - 116,761) (2004 - 124,508)	
Total Lodges	527
(2006 - 534) (2004 - 546)	
Average Age of Members	67.31
Our Members 67.85	
Average Members Per Lodge	217.6
Our Lodge 474 Members	
Average Annual Dues	\$44.72
Our Annual Dues \$40.00	

The 199th Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of F&AM of Ohio will be held in the City of Columbus, Ohio, on October 17 and 18, 2008.



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MAJOR FIVE-YEAR ANNIVERSARIES JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 2008

- 5 Years on January 4th ElRoy & Dolly Gorsuch
- 40 Years on January 16th Ernest & Shirley Adams
- 40 Years on January 19th Ronald & Linda Hager

- 65 Years on February 6th George & Helen Kupar
- 20 Years on February 10th Christian & Sanda Wehbe
- 50 Years on February 15th David & Jacquelyn Schroth
- 30 Years on February 18th Victor & Christine Galazin
- 30 Years on February 28th Wayne & Vilma Sauer

*If any dates or names are missing or incorrect,
please let the Secretary know.
Your date only comes up once every five years.*


MY VOTE

I am only one member, I have only one vote. How important can my one vote be? The answer to that question is this. It can be very important. In a voting, balloting situation where the outcome is decided by a simple majority, one vote can cause the issue to pass or to fail. Lives can be altered or reputations permanently sullied by one vote.

Rutherford B. Hayes was elected to become the nineteenth President of the United States by one vote, and Andrew Johnson was allowed to remain in office as the seventeenth President of the United States by one vote.

In most Masonic bodies a candidate is not elected to membership by one vote, but certainly can be rejected for membership by one dissenting vote. So, you see your vote is important. When balloting occurs in your organization and the presiding officer says, "Look well to your ballot and vote for the good of the order," remember that one vote can count for a lot. Your one vote is important, but you have to be present to make it important. So attend your Lodge, Chapter or Court and participate in the proceedings, because your one vote does and can make a difference.

James Schultz, P.M., 33°, LEO

<p>HOWARD SCHREIBMAN</p> <h2 style="text-align: center;">SCHREIBMAN JEWELERS</h2> <p style="text-align: center;">21679 Lorain Rd. – Fairview Centre Fairview Park, Ohio 44126</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>We Specialize in Masonic & Eastern Star Jewelry, New & Estate</i></p> <p>440-331-8144 Fax 440-331-4502</p>	<div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>GANLEY DODGE WEST, INC.</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">15200 Lorain Ave. Cleveland, Ohio 44111</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Debbie Bollinger Sales and Leasing Consultant</p> <p style="text-align: center;">216-476-1000 Fax 216-476-4258</p>
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CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY REPORT

December 1, 2007, shown bright and cold, but it was a day that 31 children and grandchildren of the members of John W. Barkley Lodge were waiting for. WHY? It was the annual Christmas party for the children.

It started at 2 p.m. sharp, there was a beautiful Christmas tree and many brightly wrapped presents which were handed out by Jolly Ole St. Nick, who made a special appearance. Face painting was done by Becky Canaday and Amanda Briggs. Brother Floyd Wiggers was dressed as a clown and made his famous balloon characters, while Brother Barry Irvin demonstrated the art of making Christmas ornaments from pipe cleaners, and coloring pictures. All the while RWB Ross Brockhagen was playing the organ, later switching to the keyboard to entertain the masses.

There were ample supplies of cookies, punch and ice cream, as much as their little tummies could hold. There were happy faces, and full tummies, and a good time was had by all. But as all good things must come to an end, the party was over all too soon. The sound of children laughing and enjoying themselves is what makes this season so special.

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL.

Submitted by Robert A. Cygan, P.M.

MOVING MADE EASY

Ever feel overwhelmed by the prospect of moving to a new residence? Western Reserve Masonic Community knows what a challenge moving can be. Now, it can help you with yours by offering a unique service that will move you out of your old home and into a new home on their campus, located at 4931 Nettleton Road in Medina.

There are lots of questions when it comes to moving, and Western Reserve's service, done in conjunction with a local moving company, provides answers for those questions. With all the choices that go with leaving a place you may have called home for decades, this optional service is there to help you through it and maybe even identify issues you hadn't thought about.

Some of the services can start even before you sell your house with tips to make your home more appealing to potential buyers. The moving coordinator can measure your furniture and make recommendations as to what furniture to bring to your new living space. They can help you recognize which of your belongings will make the transition to the new location and what would be best left behind, sold or given to other family members. They can take care of moving day details as well. And lastly, they can unpack and get everything situated in your new space.

"We're always interested in making it easier to come to our community," said Western Reserve Masonic Community President Jay Dettorre. "We think our partnership with the moving company is a step in that direction."

This service is one more way Western Reserve Masonic Community is focused on helping you pursue your passions in a comfortable setting with friendly staff, neighbors and activities.

Western Reserve Masonic Community is a continuing care retirement community with independent living garden villa homes and apartments, assisted living apartments, and skilled nursing. For more information, call 721-3000 or 866-433-1514.

A BRIEF LESSON IN LODGE FOUNDATION HISTORY
HERBERT J. COATES MEMORIAL FUND
AND WHO WAS HERBERT J. COATES?

In 1916, Ellbrook Lodge #634 F.&A.M. was organized to serve the needs of the Masonic Blue Lodge in that part of Cleveland, Ohio, known as South Brooklyn, with a charter list of 140 members. By the November 12th, 1919, annual meeting, the membership had grown to 357, and by early 1920, approximately 200 were waiting the result of a ballot, or the degrees. As the Lodge grew in size, it began to lose to some degree the closeness that once was enjoyed.

In February 1920, the situation was informally discussed by Brothers F. R. Hunt and H. J. Coates of Ellbrook Lodge and A. P. Mader of Halcyon Lodge. It was their belief that the time had come for the formation of a new lodge, and would meet in Ellbrook Hall. All this was being done with the full backing of Ellbrook Lodge and its officers. This communication was read at the stated meeting on February 25th, 1920.

On March 9th, 1920, a letter signed by H. J. Coates, A. P. Mader and F. R. Hunt was sent out to various Masons announcing a preliminary meeting proposed for Sunday, March 14th, 1920. Twenty-one additional Masons attended. The name of "Laurel" was adopted as a name for the new lodge. It was further decided that Brother H. J. Coates, a Past Master of Ellbrook Lodge, would be the first Master, Brother A. P. Mader to be the first Senior Warden, and Brother F. R. Hunt the Junior Warden.

On Sunday, March 21st, 1920, a second preliminary meeting was held, and eleven additional Master Masons were present, not the least of which was John W. Barkley.

On May 25, 1920, the first stated meeting was held, and it was announced that a dispensation from the Grand Lodge had been received. The by-laws were read and adopted. The Worshipful Master appointed the various committees among which were the first Trustees, F. A. Shepard, F. L. Stevens and J. W. Barkley. Twenty petitions for the E.A. Degree were received at \$35.00 each, and 32 membership fees of \$5.00 each. Total receipts of \$860.00. Herbert Coates also served for 25 years as Lodge Secretary.

On December 23, 1928, F. R. Hunt passed away.

On October 31, 1971, Herbert Coates also passed away.

In 1972, Brother Carl Abrahamson was Master, and it was determined that a fund be set up to aid and assist worthy Master Masons and their families. W.B. Abrahamson presented the proposal to John W. Barkley, a lawyer and Mayor of Shaker Heights, for approval. This fund was to be set aside and only the residue would be used as contributions to distressed Masons and as scholarships for Masons' families. At no time was the principal to be depleted, so that all donations would always remain.

To contribute to "The Herbert J. Coates Fund," a place is provided on your dues notice, or a contribution may be made to your secretary at any time; remembering that at some time either you or yours may benefit, and the stronger the Fund, the more help the Fund is capable of being.

To apply for a scholarship, the applicant must be a high school senior accepted in a college, a Rainbow, Job's Daughter, DeMolay, or a direct descendant of a member in good standing in John W. Barkley Lodge. See Bro. Jason Stitak for a scholarship application packet and further information.

Jason L. Stitak, Senior Warden

MY DEAR BRETHREN AND FRIENDS:

I want to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very special Christmas Holiday, and a very Happy New Year! May all your days be blessed and may your New Year bring each of you health, happiness and success.

As many of you know, I have recently gone through major surgery on my shoulder and am currently in rehab and therapy. I tore two tendons, a muscle and the rotator cuff of my shoulder.

I want to thank all those who have sent wishes and cards; your kind thoughts and words are very comforting and encourage me to continue the grueling exercises associated with my rehab. The pain is something I can't describe.

Please don't hesitate to call or visit, I would love to hear from you all. It can be long days and nights when you are stuck at home all day.

God bless you all,
Jimmy Schultz

THE HISTORY OF MISTLETOE

Everyone relates to the story that to catch that someone special under the mistletoe meant they got a kiss from that person. But do you know how the mistletoe came to be?

From the earliest times, mistletoe has been one of the most magical, mysterious and sacred plants of European folklore. It was considered to bestow life and fertility, a protection against poison, and an aphrodisiac.

The mistletoe of the sacred oak was especially sacred to the ancient Celtic Druids. On the sixth night of the moon, white-robed Druid priests would cut the oak mistletoe with a golden sickle. Two white bulls would be sacrificed amid prayers that the recipients of the mistletoe would prosper. Later, the ritual of cutting the mistletoe from the oak came to symbolize the emasculation of the old King by his successor.

Mistletoe was long regarded as both a sexual symbol and the "soul" of the oak. It was gathered at both mid-summer and winter solstices, and the custom of using mistletoe to decorate houses at Christmas is a survival of the Druid and other pre-Christian traditions.

The Greeks also thought that it had mystical powers, and down through the centuries it became associated with many folklore customs. In the Middle Ages and later, branches of mistletoe were hung from ceilings to ward off evil spirits. In Europe they were placed over house and stable doors to prevent the entrance of witches. It was also believed that the oak mistletoe could extinguish fire. This was associated with an earlier belief that the mistletoe itself could come to the tree during a flash of lightning.

The traditions, which began with the European mistletoe, were transferred to the similar American plant with the process of immigration and settlement.

James T. Schultz, L.E.O.



LOOKING AT THE TREES INSTEAD OF THE FOREST

In 1786 a German poet named Christoph Martin Wieland coined a phrase in Musarion that is often used in commentary. Wieland wrote, "They cannot see the forest for the trees." The saying has been used thousand of times in social criticism, expressing the idea that men may become so involved in details (the trees) that they do not see the larger picture (the forest). The advice is well put, but in Freemasonry I suggest the opposite may also be good advice: Should we not look primarily at the lodge (the tree) where it all begins and from which the "forest" evolves?

A paramount question being asked today, "Is Freemasonry relevant to the needs of the younger generation of men?" The answer from those well versed in Masonic philosophy answer with an energetic "yes."

Many of the contemporary young and even middle-aged are products of the college campus revolt of the 60s, observed or participated in the early drug culture, and either protested against Vietnam or crawled through its mud. In the years that followed they have been exposed to the most dramatic shift in social behavior in history.

That social revolution has receded, but in its wake are many men and women with more freedom than ever before but with lives lacking in meaning. What is missing for many of them is a sense of real values, reflected in today's lack of social integrity (for references watch television news or read the front page of any newspaper).

The answer to the question of Masonry's relevance to the younger generation lies in the Masonic lodge which offers its members a stabilizing influence in their lives. By promoting charity (remember the Masonic creed of faith, hope and charity?) the new Mason learns that it is the foremost of all social virtues and by its practice Masons can make life better for those not so fortunate.

One of the greatest benefits the lodge offers to men of all ages is the opportunity to make long and valued friendships. Not all Masons pursue this benefit, but those who are active in their Masonic lodges (and in concordant and appendant bodies) come to know what true friendship means.

We must always be aware of Masonry's big picture: that the governing Grand Lodge does for the individual lodges that which they cannot do for themselves (see Masonic Learning Center, the Masonic Homes and much more).

But the most important element in the Masonic structure is the lodge. It is here that men from all walks of life find the Freemasonry, interpreted and indoctrinated, that will have a tremendous influence on their lives.

All this is to say that there are a myriad of ways that a Mason can explore further interests and further light to his heart's content, but also at times to his heart's distraction. Because, when you get down to it, the most important thing in Freemasonry is the three Craft degrees and the local Craft Lodge. It is the foundation on which the entire superstructure of Masonry is built. Without the Ancient Craft lodges there is no Freemasonry.

—continued on page 17

TREES AND FOREST

—continued from page 16

This means that, like in the rest of life, we have to strike a balance. We can't become so involved in Masonic pursuit that we forget our local lodge and the brethren of that lodge. We can't become so involved in other rites and bodies that we don't have enough time to be active in the most important work of Masonry.

The truth is (and not every would want to hear) that if it ever becomes a choice between the needs of the Craft of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons or some additional rite, body, club or organization related to the Craft, then the additional body has to take a back seat. Otherwise, we become lost in the forest of Freemasonry and refuse to see roots which allow the tree of the Craft to live and prosper.

As nature nurtures trees, so do Masons strengthen and support their lodges through financial and moral support, and, most important, by their presence. Look well to the trees of Freemasonry.

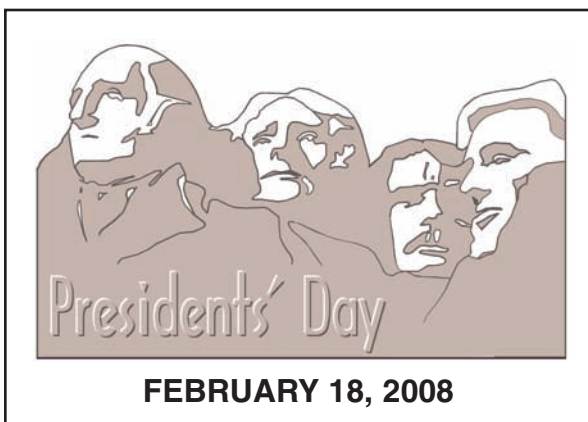
from Looking at the Tree, by Ralph Head
submitted by: Brian Donovan, J.W.

LIGHT WANTED: APPLY WITHIN

Taking the time to research ideas and topics is not the path to Light, it is Light. We all search for more knowledge in some capacity. Topics are easy to find because our institution is filled with allegory and symbolism. We are fortunate to have many resources at our disposal through the use of many published writings and the knowledge of educated Brethren. It is unfortunate that many of these resources go unused. Light isn't *easy* and it is not handed out, but it *is* out there.

How do you find the ever elusive Light??? For starters, ask your officers and Brethren, you will find out who is into reading, research and history. Next turn to the books. "What books?" you ask ... once again ask your officers or LEO if your Lodge has a library, I know Barkley's quite well. Once you have the books refer to the first method, ask others. I find it impossible to read and not discuss it with someone.

There are interested Brethren and finding each other should *not* be so hard. I know Brethren out there who just "see" stated meetings and degree work and



that's it. They want to learn more about this "light," but we do not place emphasis on education. Plainly put, we need our philosophers back. There needs to be more research and discussion. A good friend quoted to me, "if not me then who, if not now then when." We must ask that of ourselves. The Light is getting dim and will only get dimmer if we let it.

Bro. Jason L. Stitak, S.W.

THE ACACIA

Acacia is one of our most well known symbols in Freemasonry. The sprig of acacia is used in our degree work and is touched on in our lectures, but its meanings and interpretations far surpass that of which we detail. It has many meanings and interpretations in the Bible and our Fraternity, but let us start by analyzing its physical properties.

To begin, acacia is known as a plant, shrub and tree which was known to grow around the region of Palestine. It is a very hard wood with a beautiful fine grain and darkens when it ages. It is very dense which makes it extremely difficult for water to penetrate. Most species are evergreen with at least six being native to the East.

In the Bible, acacia is known as “shittim,” which is plural for “shittah” (Hebrew). The wild acacia (genus: *Mimosa*; species: *Nilotica*) under the name of “sunt” is representative of the Burning Bush or “seneh.” Acacia wood was considered extremely precious, whereby “every man who had acacia (shittim) wood brought it for the Lord’s offering.” In concert with its classical properties, acacia or shittim had other important uses. In fact the Ark of the Covenant and the staves which carried it were built from shittim wood and overlaid within and without with pure gold.

Another interesting use for acacia stemmed from the Jewish Law that no burials were permitted within the walls of the city, as it was unlawful for priests to pass over the graves. Therefore it became necessary to place markers wherever there was a grave to allow them to avoid passing over it. It was for this purpose acacia was used.

The figurative nature of acacia is quite extensive and has many meanings to our Fraternity. Mackey describes three main interpretations of acacia. The first is its traditional meaning of *immortality* as its evergreen nature is intended to remind us of the immortality of the soul. Immortality is demonstrated from its rejuvenative characteristics and alludes to the everlasting spiritual life of the soul once freed from the body.

The second interpretation is of *innocence*. This stems from the Greek language (akakia) which signifies the plant as well as the moral qualifications of innocence (or purity of life).

The third interpretation is of *initiation*. According to Mackey this is the primary and original meaning. In all ancient initiations and religious mysteries there existed a plant which was symbolic to each. This plant had an esoteric meaning which was relevant to the celebration of the rites for that particular group. This is apparent when examining the mistletoe and the Druids, the lotus to the Egyptians, or the myrtle with the Greeks.

As we can see, acacia is much more of a symbol than we mention in our lectures. By examining its characteristics and properties and comparing that with biblical records we see how interesting and important acacia is to religious institutions as well as our great Fraternity.

Bro. Jason L. Stitak, S.W.

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BIRTHDAYS FOR JANUARY & FEBRUARY

JANUARY 2008

1 – Robert K. Narolewski
 3 – Lewis J. Dolezal, Jr.
 4 – Don Everett
 5 – Robert O. Wendell
 6 – Vernon H. Prahl
 7 – John J. Kemenovich
 8 – Hal H. Hubbell
 9 – Thomas J. Bridle
 10 – Ross G. Brockhagen
 10 – Larry B. Nousek
 11 – Joseph V. Stevens
 11 – George W. Riley
 11 – Daniel H. Oberst
 13 – Leory P. Williams
 13 – Frederick C. Hubert
 13 – Paul M. Schmotzer
 14 – James T. Weir

14 – Donald E. Wenner
 19 – Elvin L. Beswick
 20 – Raymond A.
 Leuenberger, PM
 20 – Jan E. Jurgensen
 20 – Jonathan E. Limpert
 21 – Carl M. Reese, Sr.
 22 – Mark J. Bollinger, PM
 22 – Matthew J. Peters
 23 – Walter P. Pugnea
 25 – Steve Chaly, Jr.
 26 – Roger W. Geis
 27 – Dr. Peter G. Economou
 27 – Gary J. Dennison, PM
 29 – Theodore F. Brogan, PM
 31 – William C. Misch
 31 – Mark W. Oriold



... and
 many
 happy
 returns!

FEBRUARY 2008

1 – Walter R. Ransom, Jr.
 3 – Edward W. Downer
 3 – Joseph P. Dzmura
 4 – Douglas H. Janke
 5 – Arnold L. Buehl
 5 – Charles R. Nara
 5 – Gary L. Zelonis
 7 – Lewis D. Cromwell
 8 – Otto H. Mauch
 8 – Lewis J. Dolezal, Sr., PM
 9 – Allan H. Warner
 10 – George L. Roscoe
 13 – Edward W. Byers
 13 – James C. Robinson
 14 – Wilbert L. Hawkins

15 – Robert P. Arcuri
 16 – Thomas P. Leach
 16 – Ralph P. Trefney
 18 – Ernest O. Schemmel
 18 – James L. Bryson, Jr.
 18 – Richard S. Croy
 18 – Frank J. Lomozik, Jr.
 20 – Robert G. Julius
 20 – Harold L. Huff
 22 – Gary C. Krakora, PM
 23 – Edward J. Hallman
 24 – Edward F. Nageotte, PM
 25 – Robert J. White
 26 – Fred A. Leuhsler
 26 – Dr. Allen E. Fousek
 27 – William G. Kress



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