

ROCKY RIVER LODGENO. 703 F. & A. M.
20149 LAKE ROAD
ROCKY RIVER OHIO 44116

UPCOMING EVENTS

Feb 07 Officers meeting and EA practice
Feb 14 Stated - LEO Presentation
Feb 21 Special - Entered Apprentice Degree
Feb 28 Stated - Dinner 6:30 pm
Mar 06 Special - Awards Night
Dinner @ 6:30 pm
Mar 13 Stated
Mar 20 Master Mason Rehearsal
Mar 27 Stated


Please see inside article for additional information

February 2008
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Visitation to Western Reserve Masonic Center

On May 15, your Lodge will be paying a visit to the Western Reserve Masonic Center in Medina for the conferral of a degree. The Lodge has at least one member who resides at the Center. There are also several members who live in the Medina area we have not seen in Lodge for quite sometime and this visit provides you with not only the opportunity to see some excellent ritual work but more importantly renew old friendships. More details will be in upcoming editions of the Trestleboard but please mark your calendars to join us at the Center in May.

W.B. Tom Lindsey, Treasurer

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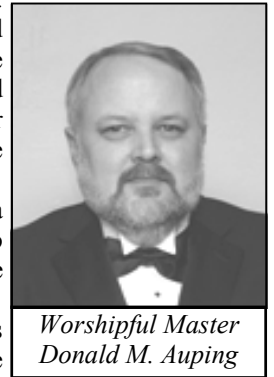


From the East

Last month I made a rather large error in not thanking my wife for all her work for the Polish Feast. So dear, now it is officially in print, THANK YOU. Thanks to all of you who made it such a successful event. We had over 35 people there for dinner and fellowship. I overheard the comment made that it had been along time since that many had come to dinner. Thank you all for attending. This months dinner night is stag but we will have another dinner in March that will be open to all.

Congratulations to Mike Spisak. He joined Rocky River as a plural member, his home lodge is near Toledo. Also we had two petitions turned in to our secretary so we hopefully will have some degree work to do.

Get your money and reservations in early for the Indians game. As I am writing this already 12 tickets are gone. First come first serve. As I have said in the past, if you haven't been to Lodge lately, give us a try. Hope to see you there.



*Worshipful Master
Donald M. Auping*

Fraternally,
 Don Auping, Worshipful Master

Birthday Trivia

February is a good month for a variety of special days, holidays or birthdays of which we have 17.

Groundhog Day occurs on the 2nd and so does the birthdays of Jack Haeni, my faithful Michigan correspondent. The next special day is Valentine's Day which is Ed Kilpatrick's and Jim Monjot's birthday.

Our newest member is Mike Spisak who now joins Ted Olm and Chuck Skinner with birthdays on the 10th.

Our oldest February brother is Doug Marx who will celebrate for his 88th year and our youngest is Chris Lindsey.

Special mention (which should satisfy his ego) goes to Mark Fritz who celebrates perhaps only every fourth year as his birthday occurs on the 29th. Pitch in two of our Past Masters Jim Goodwin and Tom Naughton and we are left with six other February birthdays which are Regis Holland, Philip Tescher, John Hess, Eric Marschall, John O'Stacy and Jerry Skeen.

Happy birthday to all this Valentine month!

Bill Gay, P.M., Secretary

What Made Masonry Great In The First Place?

by Douglas O. Breneman, Past Grand Master of Ohio

As I try to determine a response for this question, I still keep coming up with the same answer and that is; in her principles, her precepts and her teachings. We all know that these have basically stayed the same for centuries with the tinc exception of interpretation in what we will call modern times. I will try and relate my feelings and understandings of Freemasonry's rise to fame in the United States of America from Brother George Washington's time on. Now everyone knows that Brother and President Washington practiced the three great tenants of a Masons profession; Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth. However, I feel it was in the way in which this great General, great man, great President and yes, great Mason practiced these great tenants, that made him the exceptional leader he was and helped Masonry maintain its greatness at that time. As we recall Valley Forge, we understand his true greatness and the love that his soldiers must have had for him, to endure what they did that winter. Only a man that had the charity in his heart for all men whether he be prince or peasant, brother or foe, could have made these great accomplishments. As we start winding our way through history, we determine that the little red schoolhouse, the little white church and of course the right arm of Freemasonry, the Blue Lodge helped to make all of our communities great in their own way. We find that the little red schoolhouse, the white church and the Masonic Blue Lodge all were made up of God-fearing men, men with a hope to educate their children, to teach them the

(Continued on page 4)

From the West

I attended another of the Leadership meetings on January 12th. The topic was "Running an Effective Meeting." Much of the discussion focused on education. Representatives from one lodge suggested having the Secretary leave a couple of copies of the previous meeting(s) minutes on the tyler's desk before the a stated meeting. Interested brethren will have the opportunity to review them before the meeting begins. When the order of business comes to minutes, the Master can say, "Brethren, you have had the opportunity to peruse the minutes. Are there any additions, correction, or deletions?" I would be interested in knowing the Lodge's feelings on adopting such a procedure in our Lodge.

There will be another Leadership meeting on February 17th. The topic will be "Officers and Their Duties." If any of the officers are interested in riding downtown with me, please let me know.

The Worshipful Master has appointed a committee to review, and perhaps update our bylaws. I am hopeful the committee will be making some proposals within the next couple of weeks.

On March 1st is Tri-Youth Day at the Cleveland Masonic Center. On that day, each on the Masonic youth groups (DeMolay, Rainbow Assembly, and Job's Daughters) perform their initiation ceremonies. I encourage each of you to attend. It is important that we support our youth groups. While we say that we need to support these groups because the members of these groups may join the Lodge or the Stars as they become adults, it is equally important to support these groups because of the values they teach, regardless of whether the youth go on to join the adult organizations.

Fraternally,
Ben Farah, Senior Warden

Cleveland Indians vs The Texas Rangers

Your Lodge is planning a night at the new Progressive Field for the Cleveland Indians ball game for Saturday, May 24th. Tickets will be \$27.00 and that includes a bleacher seat, and all the hot dogs, burgers, etc., you can eat.

Anyone is invited and only 40 Tickets are available. They are offered on a first come first paid basis. Contact W.M. Don Auping at 440-842-9925 to get your tickets!

Breakfast in the Park

Well another Year has come and 35 semi-frozen Brethren have enjoyed a breakfast at the Mastic Pavilion in the Metro parks. That's quite a turnout for the balmy 34 degree temperatures that morning. Rt. Wor. Bro. Charles Berry braved the weather to join us that morning. Once again, thanks Br. Gary Szechy for an excellent time and great food!

Groundhog Day Facts

Do you know that Groundhog Day is related to an ancient Christian holy day called Candlemas? Candlemas referred to the purification of Mary 40 days after the birth of Jesus. It was once believed that if Candlemas dawned bright and clear, there would be two winters that year.

By 1887, German settlers in the United States established a similar tradition of predicting the weather involving a groundhog. On February 2, the groundhog emerges from his den. If he sees his shadow, there will be six more weeks of winter.

The tradition lingers on with Pennsylvania's famous Punxsutawney Phil. News reporters eagerly await Phil's emergence, and whether or not he sees his shadow is reported in newspapers and television all over the country!

In Memoriam

Charles Walden Plum

Brother Charles Walden Plum was born on April 13, 1914 in Circleville, Ohio.

Brother Charles W. Plum was initiated an Entered Apprentice on November 11, 1944, passed to the Degree of Fellowcraft on January 17, 1945 and raised to the sublime Degree of Master Mason on April 4, 1945.

All degrees were conferred in Magnolia-Euclid Lodge #626 F. & A. M. in St. Louis, Missouri. Brother Plum affiliated with A.A. Stephens Lodge #733 F. & A.M. on October 21, 1950 and became a member of Rocky River #703 F. & A.M. when A.A. Stephens merged with us on January 31, 1984.

Brother Charles W. Plum was called to the Grand Lodge above on November 10, 2006 at the age of 92, ending 62 years of continuous Masonic affiliation.

John Stracker

Brother John Stracker was born on January 10, 1924.

Brother John Stracker was initiated an Entered Apprentice on May 15, 1958, passed to the Degree of Fellowcraft on June 19, 1958 and raised to the sublime Degree of Master Mason on January 15, 1959.

All degrees were conferred in Rocky River Lodge #703 F. & A. M.

Brother John Stracker was called to the Grand Lodge above on January 11, 2008, at the age of 84, ending 49 years of continuous Masonic affiliation

Romilly Webster Traves

Brother Romilly W. Traves was born on December 20, 1926.

Brother Romilly W. Traves was initiated an Entered Apprentice on March 2, 1950, passed to the Degree of Fellowcraft on January 18, 1951 and raised to the sublime Degree of Master Mason on March 1, 1951.

All degrees were conferred in Rocky River Lodge #703 F. & A. M.

Brother Romilly Traves was called to the Grand Lodge above on August 9, 2007, at the age of 80, ending 56 years of continuous Masonic affiliation.

	
	
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OLE' SOL

While proceeding at a furious pace in a futile attempt to keep up with a Black Cadillac with the License plate "SW something or other" (our WM Don Auping's mode of transportation which has not yet had it's license plate upgraded to his new Lodge station), I was eventually able to arrive at 703½ and join in on the usual exaggerations already underway by the distinguished brethren there assembled. The topic that evening was lodge visitations and the following contribution was made:

W.B. Tom Lindsey and "Ole Sol" had occasion back in December, to visit the Forrest City Lodge #388 and attend their annual Brotherhood Night. While waiting in the lodge room for events to begin unfolding, we happened to be seated behind several brand new District Deputies from the Toledo area. We were able to recognize them to be "new" because they were wearing the apron style first appearing this year with the corner-less or rounded bottoms.

When asked about the meaning of the new style apron (which most of the deputies we talked to didn't care for) they told us that the style was adopted for this year which is the 200th Anniversary of Masonry in Ohio to be reminders of the "continental" style of apron worn by Masons back in the days of our beginnings. One of the less reverend of the group said "that is the official version" now do you want the real version" and we quickly responded absolutely" (at least W.B. Lindsey did)! Here is what we were told: "This year the Grand Lodge of Ohio requested and was denied an increase in the per capita member assessment at the October, 2007 Communication. They were then forced into cost cutting measures to balance their budget and they have started with the corners of the Deputies aprons".

Seriously, aprons have a long and storied history with Masonic lodges with most of the non-Masonic public becoming aware of and then associating them with Masons because they are always worn in public at Masonic funeral services. Many explanations of their meaning and purpose abound but a brief explanation encompassing most of the reasons is given by Bobby J. Demott, 33°, Grand Historian to the Grand Lodge of Tennessee.

"Masonry regards no man for the clothes he wears, the house in which he lives, the kind of car he drives, or the other luxuries he owns or uses.

All Masons are equal when in the Lodge room and all are clothed in the same manner. The apron is the only raiment we see. Masons stand before God equal to one another, and the apron is the sign of equality.

In ancient times the aprons were manufactured from the skins of lambs, animals deemed to be pure and without taint. Thus the wearer of the apron assumes the characteristics, virtues, purity, and innocence typified by the lamb.

Masons wear two aprons, one visible and one invisible. The visible one is a symbolic gift from the Lodge to the Mason. It is made of worldly material and is subject to decay and destruction.

The invisible apron is the gift of God to every man who would assume the responsibilities and obligations which entitles him to wear it. This apron is eternal, not subject to decay or destruction.

Man sees only the visible; God sees both, and He holds him accountable who wears this honored badge of the Masonic Lodge."

Our honorable Treasurer is also rumored to have had a picture taken of him in an apron while performing subservient kitchen duties assigned by his good wife Donna, but he refuses to make such pictorial evidence available for this article.

At any event, it appears I have exhausted the "apron" subject as well as the contents of the pitcher which means it is time for W.B. Jim Manthey to fire up his Cadillac (Old Harry is comfortably garaged for the winter season) and I will follow his example and head for home.

Until next month,

"Ole' Sol"
Secretary #703 1/2

(Continued from page 2)

laws of the land, to instill the love and forgiveness of God toward all and to practice the Masonic teachings of the Blue Lodge, not only in the lodge room itself, but also in their communities. There were three Presidents - Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, and Andrew Jackson - who all had a part in making our Nation great by living and practicing the principles of Freemasonry.

Last year the Grand Lodge Officers toured the McKinley monument. Yes, another one of our Masonic presidents. The Grand Master recanted how President McKinley asked the crowd not to hurt the man who had just shot him. What a great example of Masonry and its teachings. We recall Brother and President Franklin D. Roosevelt and Brother and President Harry S. Truman and what they did for our Country when it was involved in World War II. Yes, what strong Brothers and Leaders these great men were.

This year we lost another great man and Mason with the death of Brother and Reverend Norman Vincent Peale. This Brother was a messenger of God and definitely made a great impact on thousands of people in his lifetime. You see, he knew that the teachings of God and the teachings of Freemasonry go hand in hand. So as I said in the beginning, I feel the answer to the question "What made masonry great in the first place?" is in her Principles, her Precepts and her Teachings that have turned our Brethren into great leaders and this is what made Masonry great to start with. The men listed above are only a few of those many thousands over the years that have enabled us to maintain Freemasonry's greatness.

Although our numbers are decreasing I feel that the quality of our Brethren is still there and that they will lead us into the 21st Century with the same strong love that made our Fraternity great to start with. It is definitely the Brethren with the high ideals taught in Freemasonry that has made Masonry great from the very beginning.

So you see, my Brethren, Freemasonry is Life's working tools Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow. It is still a way of life and I firmly believe we will be the architects of our own destiny.