

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Mar 06 Special - Awards Night
Dinner @ 6:30 pm
- Mar 13 Stated
- Mar 20 Master Mason Rehearsal
- Mar 27 Stated
- Apr 03 Inspection - Master Mason Degree
Dinner @ 6:30 pm

Please see inside articles for additional information

March 2008
 Volume 66 - Issue 03




Visit our website at:
<http://www.rockyriver703.com/>

ZEIS
McGreevey
 FUNERAL HOME AND CREMATION SERVICE
 FAMILY OWNED AND OPERATED
JOHN G. "Jack" McGREEVEY
 (216) 221-0220
 zmfh.com

Fax (216) 529-1028
 Res. (440) 356-0017
 1-800-536-0220

16105 DETROIT AVENUE
 LAKEWOOD, OHIO 44107

 **THE WM. PLOTZ
 MACHINE & FORGE CO.**
 ESTABLISHED 1888 ~ INCORPORATED 1992

Jim and Tom Plotz
 2514 Center St.
 Cleveland, Ohio 44113-1111
 216-861-0441

**"Greetings From
 Sunset Beach,
 North Carolina!"**
 Brother Bill Carothers
 1-910-575-6505

Showroom: 440-331-1055 Fax: 440-331-1149

Beachcliff Cabinet & Design Company
 "Creative designs for your
 life-styles & living space"

**CHARLES P. SIMMELINK
 STAN ZEAGER**

· Kitchens & Baths 1150 Linda Street
 · Additions Rocky River, Ohio
 · Windows & Doors 44116

Architectural Signage Computerized Graphics
 Nameplates Pre-inked Stamps
 Self Inkers Embossing Seals
 Daters Rubber Stamps



ROYAL/ACME

—Your Identification Specialists—
 3110 Payne Avenue Cleveland, OH 44114
 216-241-1477 Fax: 216-241-1479

BROWN PLEASANCE


17419 Detroit Avenue Lakewood, Ohio 44107
 216-226-7850
 Flowers for Every Occasion
www.brownpleasance.com

Law Offices of
BENJAMIN F. FARAH
 Attorneys & Counselors at Law Ltd.
 1154 Linda Street Suite 175
 Rocky River, OH 44116
 Ph: 440-331-0801 Fax: 440-331-0733
 Email: bfarah@riverlaw.com

Bus: 216-226-5356 www.mcgorray.com
 Res: 216-226-7660 Fax: 216-226-5359
 Email: greg@mcgorray.com

McGorray Bros. Co.
 14133 Detroit Ave. 25620 Center Ridge Rd.
 Lakewood, Ohio Westlake, Ohio
 44107-4596 44145-4001
Gregory D. Hayden

Morgan Stanley
David R. Freeman,
 Associate Vice President
 direct: 440.835.6814 toll free: 800.473.0003
 159 Crocker Park Blvd Suite 460
 Westlake, Ohio 44145
david.freeman@morganstanley.com



Rocky River Lodge# 703 F. & A.M.
20149 Lake Road
Rocky River, Ohio 44116
Phone: (440) 331-4797

2007 Officers

Donald M. Auping Worshipful Master
 440-842-9925 wm@rr703.com

Benjamin F. Farah..... Senior Warden
 440-356-4178 bfarah@riverlaw.com

Ryan C. Wilson Junior Warden
 440-333-5789 ... rynwlsl1968@yahoo.com

Thomas Lindsey, P.M..... Treasurer
 440-333-3564 tlind44327@aol.com

William Gay, P.M.Secretary
 440-331-8337 williamag@ameritech.net

Raymond Ecobichon, P.M. Welfare
 440-934-6402

Russ Kilpatrick, P.M.Editor
 440-356-1717 redscot@gmail.com

Birthday Trivia

March may have become popular for the madness of the NCAA basketball tournament but it also has proven a rousing time of the year for the birthdays of 22 of our brethren. Our oldest brother is Earl Siebenhaar who for some reason always celebrates his birthday on the 17th whether it's St. Patrick's Day or not and has been doing so for 95 years. Scott Hayden also celebrates this month and although he has not been at it nearly as long as Earl, he never-the-less is our youngest. Apparently finding something they liked about the day, Dave Forst, Andy Matejeik and Charlie Simmelink all picked the 13th for their birthdays. Other major players this month are Past Masters Bob Charvat, Bob Michael, Rich Snevel and Bill Dew and Ted Cutts, Toss in Mike Chohaney, Ed Lentz, Bill Walzer, James Heintz, Les Sieman, Joe Schneider, Dave Light, Ralph Cunin, Mel Schurdell, Jim Priest, Jim Assink and Ben Farah and we can put on a full-court press of good wishes for another round of Happy Birthdays

Bill Gay, P.M., Secretary

From the East

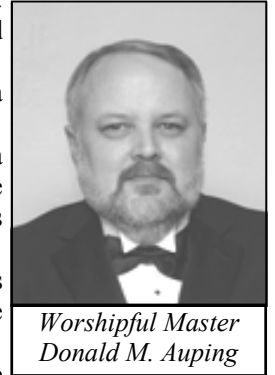
On March 6th we will be having our annual Awards Night. This is an open meeting so wives, family etc are invited. Dinner will be at 6:30 pm. Boneless breaded pork chops, oven browned potatoes and green beans with bacon will be served.

On Mar 27th, the dinner before our stated meeting will be a wild game feast. This is one you will not want to miss.

Also on April 3rd will be our Inspection. There will be a special dinner before the meeting and reservations will be required. Please email or call me if you plan to attend this dinner.

Get your money and reservations in early for the Indians game. As I am writing this 16 tickets are gone already. These are on a first come first serve availability.

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

Take a Look

By Thomas W. Olzak

When was the last time you looked up into the night sky and actually saw the stars? I mean really saw them. When was the last time you contemplated the fragile crystalline beauty of a snow flake, glistening in the winter sun? If you are like most of us, it has been a long time. We are robbing ourselves of the uplifting effects of the beauty of the Great Architect's creation.

Modern man moves through life surrounded by natural wonders he fails to comprehend. We make excuses for not taking the time to view the world around us. We are always too busy focusing on how to make the next dollar, or worrying about keeping up with our neighbor. We move through life as if surrounded by a fog through which we see nothing but what is directly in front of our face.

Freemasonry encourages us to clear away this fog through the of study the liberal arts and sciences. We don't need a Liberal Arts degree to begin to appreciate what the Great Architect has given us. We just need to open our hearts and minds.

Close your eyes and listen to the music of masters such as Mozart, Beethoven, and Bach. Although it may take genius to put their great works on paper, it only takes an open heart to realize the extant eternal harmonies in their works. They lift our spirits to the highest heavens if we but lose ourselves in them. When we open our hearts to the harmonies of life, we find that peace and kindness come of their own accord.

A strict study of Astronomy provides us with facts and figures about the vast universe that surrounds us. These facts and figures do not tell all, however. If we close our eyes and use our imagination, we can see the planets, the stars, and the galaxies rolling through limitless space; all governed by the harmonious law of nature. Think of the immensity of that which the Great Architect has provided for us to contemplate. If we simply attempt to expand our comprehension to surround the heavens, we must begin to realize our humble place in the vast scheme of things. Our egocentric world view begins to disappear. We begin to look beyond what is right in front of noses.

Freemasonry speaks of the origin of structure and order; that structure, order, and beauty arose from a study of nature. Although we seem to have forgotten how to learn from nature, a thoughtful study of the arts and sciences opens paths to wonders new and inspiring. As we begin to appreciate the life and beauty in our world, we also begin to live in harmony with ourselves and with others. We walk the path to the East with our eyes open and with our spirits soaring; reaching for the spiritual awakening promised by our ritual and by the Book of Holy Scripture.

What It Means To Be A Brother

What does it mean to call another man Brother? Is this simply a term we use to refer to one another to set us apart from everyone else? Do we do it because everyone else does it? Is it because we are obligated to do so?

How is it that two men who have never met one another can meet on the level and treat each other like Brothers? Before becoming a Mason, I, like most people, was cautious upon meeting strangers. The process of getting to know someone can take weeks, months, or years. Can this person be trusted? Do we have anything in common?

And yet, as a Freemason I can meet a man with whom I have never spoken, about whom I know nothing, except that he is also a Freemason. And that is enough. Without hesitation, I am prepared to render any and all assistance to him. I trust his word implicitly. I will go to the length of my cabletow for this man I have never met. He is truly my Brother.

There is a certain bond that exists which I find difficult to express. Perhaps, like the Tao, when looked for it cannot be seen; reached for, it cannot be grasped; listened for, it cannot be heard. And yet, it is there. Undeniably present and unshakable.

I am profoundly moved by the acceptance I have found within the Craft. I am not referring to simple camaraderie, although that in itself is a wonderful thing. I have the feeling of coming home after being away for a very long time. The men whom I call Brethren are the most honest, most sincere, most caring, and most wonderful men that I have ever had the pleasure to meet. When I think of all I have learned thus far, and all I still have to learn, I realize that I can never really repay the debt I owe. None of us can. But this debt is not like money owed. It is a debt which makes each of us richer and better. I now realize that Freemasonry holds the key to the greatest secret of them all. And yet, it is not really a secret. Is it?

As we look around the world today and back through the veils of history, we see that mankind has always been at war. Hatred has twisted the minds of men, turned brother against brother. Religion and politics have lead to the senseless slaughter of millions upon millions of people. Fear and paranoia have shaped the development of civilizations since the beginning of time.

But we, as Freemasons, have discovered the most profound of all secrets. And that secret is that **WE ARE ALL BROTHERS UNDER THE FATHERHOOD OF THE GREAT ARCHITECT OF THE UNIVERSE**. This simple truth allows each and every one of us to treat one another with dignity, respect, and caring. If we find a Brother in need, we give him aid and comfort without hesitation and without thinking of what we can gain in return. Within the body of a Lodge, we are all equal. Certainly, some may have more money, others may be more intelligent, but these things are irrelevant. What matters is only that the man next to you is a Brother. Our shared experience of being Entered, Passed, and finally Raised, regardless of our personal religious belief, regardless of our nationality or political opinions, makes us Brothers.

This simple yet profound Truth has the potential to change the world. My Brothers, we hold the key. What we choose to do with this key is up to each and every one of us. What does the future hold for mankind? No one knows. Imagine a world where every man, woman, and child lived this Truth. Impossible? I think not. We are proof of that. Every time we reach out a helping hand to a Brother in need, every time we live the teachings of Masonry, we bring this reality a little closer. The future is what we make it. What induced YOU to become a Master Mason?!!

Kevin M. Tuck, Director, Institute for Masonic Studies,
Grand Lodge, F. & A.M. of California
E-mail: ktuck@freemason.org

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 24 tickets are remaining! They are offered on a first come **first paid** basis. Contact W.M. Don Auping at 440-842-9925 to get your tickets!

Duty

"Every crime against our laws, every sin against decency and morality, every sharp practice against square dealing in business, is a serious reflection on the Masonic Lodge, in the neighborhood in which it is committed. Masonry should not take the pure principles of morality and preserve them in the walled up seclusion of lodge halls, like as we preserve fruit and vegetables and keep them in dark cellars for our own use; but our lodges and our lives should be as lighthouses, blazing out the truths of right living, to bless the community, state and nation, in which we have our being." (Milton Winham, P.G.M., Arkansas).

Secrecy

"Within proper bounds, Masons may and should welcome publicity. A secret society is one which seeks to conceal its existence and its objects. Freemasonry is not such a society and is secret only as to the obligations, means of recognition, ballots upon candidates and forms and ceremonies observed in conferring degrees. With the exception of those particulars, Masonry has no reservations from the public. As to everything else -- its design, its moral and religious tenets and the doctrines taught by it, the time and place of its meetings, the names of the officers of a Lodge and those belonging to it -- are all in no way secret and may be known by any one." (Committee on Publicity, Connecticut Grand Lodge).

Moral Responsibility

One of the hidden mysteries of ancient Freemasonry is that symbolism which teaches that character can be built or developed in only one way, and that is by doing good to others. It is hidden from those who are unworthy to receive it but it unveils itself to those who seek truth, ask for light, and knock at the door of their better nature.

"Man cannot assume a moral obligation; nor can anyone thrust a moral obligation upon him. With every acquisition of knowledge a moral obligation automatically attaches to him."

Ole' Sol

There is an odd circumstance that tends to occur at the conclusion of most Thursday night lodge meetings and that is that the Masonic labors seem to consistently produce a thirst for a number of things but more especially a brew (or two). In an attempt to alleviate this affliction, Lodge 703½ conveniently convenes to provide the sustenance and more importantly the conversational substance for much Masonic reflection.

At a recent occasion when indulgence of both of the above opportunities were in full swing, we were pushing around a subject that Ole' Sol will refer to as "For Richer, For Poorer". Not intending to demean a most sacred marriage vow the use of this well known phrase was intended to refer to the changes in the Masonic tenancy of our temple.

The first tenant was of course the Blue Lodge #703 which was soon followed by the Easter Star Chapter and over the course of years, at least to the extent that my diminishing memory can recall, A.A. Stephens Lodge #733 was born in 1950 and there occurred a Rainbow Assembly and a DeMolay Chapter and these tenants were certainly part of the equation that made all of us "Richer". But hard times fell on the Rainbow Girls as well as the DeMolay Boys and even the venerable Lodge #733 succumbed to merger with #703 in 1984 and the vanishing from our temple of these organizations found us all "Poorer" for the experience.

Recently we have gained two new tenants which formerly met in the Fairview Masonic Temple in the form of an Eastern Star Chapter and a Rainbow Assembly and for that we are "Richer" as we welcome them into our "house". But such a move was occasioned by the merger of the former Fairview Lodge #699 which not to long ago as a result of yet another consolidation was renamed "Cornerstone #699" and the temple building was sold. No question our Masonic world was the "Poorer" for this happening as our Masonic temples, lodges and numbers continue to diminish.

Old habits die hard and even though Fairview had changed their name to Cornerstone many Rocky River brethren continued to refer to them as "Fairview" because both lodges had a long and rich history in the area. We both met on Thursday nights and over the course of years the close proximity of the two lodges occasioned many dances and social events to be jointly held. We had a lively competition over visitation at Installations and Inspections and the winner kept possession of a rotating trophy as evidence of their ability to bring out the greater number of visitors. Wonder what ever happened to that? Pinochle and cribbage tournaments, swapping of degree conferrals and a host of other activities are sadly now relegated to the same status as the lodge and it's temple - 'only memories'.

So perhaps a toast would be in order to all the brothers and all the sisters and the Masonic affiliations of those boys and girls whose coming made us "Richer" and departure left us "Poorer". We will soldier on but our declining numbers compound the difficulties of doing so.

So now it is my turn to follow out the door a distinguished procession of Masters past and present in the guise of Lindsey, Hayden, Auping, Allen and Manthey and I am reminded of a comment by another great Freemason, "They have all the virtues I dislike and none of the vices I admire." - Winston Churchill

Until next month,

"Ole' Sol"
Secretary #703 1/2

Working Tools

Proud to be a Mason?

You bet I am,
And I can tell you why, I am and will be
proud to be one,
Till the day I die.

If you look upon that painting there,
front and center, you'll see a square.
It reminds all of my Brothers and me
that, in all our dealings, we should be
fair.

The compasses, right by its side, remind
us that it's best to hide

The feelings we may feel at first, for
often, those can be the worst;

To rule our passions, think, and then,
maybe think just once again before we
act, before we speak.

It is not weakness to be meek, the gavel,
resting on the trowel, does not let us
rule over all.

We use it to shape our hearts into a state
pleasing to God, and pleasing to you.

It is from the level that all Brothers know
that we are all equals, wherever we go.
It tells us that all destinations are one,
and that we'll meet again when our
work here is done.

The plumb helps us try to be upright and
straight; to avoid falling prey to
prejudice and hate.

The gauge under these has twenty-four
parts, it helps us to measure, with our
minds and our hearts, how much of
our time we should give to others, to
our God, our families, our jobs, and
our Brothers.

The apron means innocence, which can't
be attained, but which we will strive
for until it's regained.

The Bible supports us, a foundation for
all, without it, our tools would all
tumble and fall.

Proud to be a Mason?

You bet I am,
And now I've told you why
I am and will be proud to be one, 'till the
day I die.

By Edward L Draper, District Deputy Grand Master

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT & SERVICE CO.

Electrical · Plumbing · Carpentry

BILL GAY 440-331-8337

19446 Henry Road
Fairview Park, Ohio 44126

WATERFRONT CONDOMINIUM

Private Dock - An Island Paradise!

Longboat Key, Florida

\$2,200.00 per month plus taxes

For Information Please Contact:

**H. B. Armstrong at
440-871-1575**



Emerson G. Garber
Broker

Garber Realty

Residential

Commercial

1617 Mendelssohn Dr.
Westlake, Ohio 44145

Office: 440-871-7054 E-mail: eg1617@aol.com
Fax: 440-871-7065 Voice Mail: 216-695-5066