

**ROCKY RIVER LODGE NO. 703 F. & A. M.
20149 LAKE ROAD
ROCKY RIVER OHIO 44116**

February 2019

UPCOMING EVENTS

Upcoming Dates:

- 02/07/19 Special - Officers Meeting
- 02/14/19 Entered Apprentice Degree
- 02/21/19 Special Meeting
- 02/28/19 Stated - Pre-inspection
- 03/07/19 Fellow Craft Practice
- 03/14/19 Stated Meeting
- 03/21/19 Inspection - Fellow Craft Degree
- 03/28/19 Stated Meeting

**See inside for more information. Please join
Us for dinner on meeting nights at 6:30 P.M.**

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More Light in Masonry

- www.rockyriver703.org
- www.freemason.com
- www.freemasonuniversity.com
- www.facebook.com/grandlodgeohio
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From The East

As February arrives we can look back at a great start to our year.

We've raised our first candidate of the year as Wor. Bro. Ted Cutts presided in the East as Brother Trevor Cutts received his Master Mason degree to a nearly full Lodge Room. It was a great evening as over 90 Master Masons were present.

Ted was one of 7 in the room who had raised their son – what a great Masonic Family tradition! Senior DeMolays played an important part in the evening as well.

The Fellowcraft Team was almost all Rocky River Lodge members like the old days. It was great to see so many familiar faces back in Lodge. We hope to see you often.

RWB Heib and WB Fletcher, DEO, were in attendance as we honored WB George Mason on receiving his 60 year pin. It was great to see George in Lodge.

As I write this our 43rd Breakfast in the Park will be Sunday. A perfect day is forecast – 20 degrees.

And our third annual range night with nearly 40 members and guests signed up was to have been held on January 31st.

On February 7th we will have an Officer's Meeting at 700 pm and an Entered Apprentice degree on he 14th. We are moving toward our goal of 10 new Master Masons this year.

Inspection season has begun and we will be traveling to our neighboring Lodges in February and March.

Faternally,
 Mark W. Rantala, W.M.

Upcoming Events

Open House

On Thursday, February 27th, we will have an open house from 6:00 pm until 7:00 pm where interested persons can visit with members of the Lodge, join us for supper and ask questions about the fraternity. Other lodges use this technique to introduce their Lodge to the community. If you have an interested prospect invite them to join us. We will have a brief presentation and a Q + A session.

It's not Just Pizza Anymore

Rodger Edwards has taken on the task of improving our menu. Come to lodge at 6:30 and enjoy an evening of good food and fellowship before Lodge. We recently had homemade soups (beef barley and chicken noddle), and we are planning a corned beef and cabbage night in March.

9 And Counting

With one Master Mason degree behind us and another petitioner scheduled for his EA in February we are headed toward our goal of raising 10 members this year as we work to rebuild our core. Bring a petition and a friend to our Lodge.

Grand Master's One Day Class

The Grand Master has announced a Grand Master's Class in September. If you have someone in mind that would be a good member of our Lodge but has time constraints that would limit his ability to progress trough the traditional degree sequence bring his petition in my May to be part of the Grand Master's One Day Class in September.

Replace Yourself

The future of our Lodge and the fraternity depends on fresh blood. We should all try to replace ourselves. The Grand Master has a nice pin that recognizes our efforts to bring new members into the Lodge.

The Builder

by William R. Fischer

The chief architect of King Solomon's Temple was and is often referred to as "The Builder." This term is also applied general to the Craft, for every speculative mason is as much a builder as was his operative predecessor.

Masons are known as moral builders. As the operative Mason spreads the cement to bind the stone, speculative masons spread brotherly love, relief, and truth to bind men morally and spiritually. The operative builder, builds for a century and the speculative builder, builds for eternity. In this sense "The Builder" is the most noble title that can be bestowed on a Mason.

Why Men Love Freemasonry

William C. Bell PM, Youngstown Lodge No. 615
Youngstown, Ohio, Qbert143@aol.com

The New Brother sat near the Old Tiler in the anteroom, crossed his legs and took out his cigar case. "Have a smoke and unpuzzle me."

The Old Tiler accepted the proffered cigar with a smile. "I am often puzzled, too," he sympathized.

"Tell me." "I am crazy about Masonry. I love it. So do a lot of other men. And I don't know why. I can't find anyone who will tell me why. Old Tiler, why do men love Masonry?"

The Old Tiler got up and crossed the room to a book case, extracted a volume and returned. "I read that question in this little book, 'The Magic of Freemasonry,' by Arthur E. Powell. Let me read to you--"

The Old Tiler fluttered the pages. Finding his place he sat and began: "Why do men love Masonry? What lure leads them to it? What spell holds them through the long years? What strand is it that tugs at our hearts, taut when so many threads are broken by the rough ways of the world? And what is it in the wild that calls to the little wild things? What sacred secret things do the mountains whisper to the hill man, so silently yet so surely that they can be heard above the din and clatter of the world? What mystery does the sea tell the sailor; the desert to the Arab; the arctic ice to the explorer; the stars to the astronomer? When we have answered these questions mayhap we may divine the magic of Masonry. Who knows what it is, or how or why, unless it be the long cabletow of God, running from heart to heart..."

The Old Tiler closed the book and waited. "The cabletow of God," repeated the New Mason. "That's a beautiful phrase."

"It's more than a phrase, I think," the Old Tiler answered. "As I see it, the heart of Freemasonry by which all manner of men are attracted and held, is just that- the longing for communion with the Most High."

"Oh, you must be mistaken. Men who want God go to church."

"Do you go to church?"

"Er, oh, well, sometimes."

"Yet you never miss coming to lodge?"

"No, I don't, but--"

"Never mind the 'but.'" The Old Tiler smiled. "A lot of men come to the Lodge who do not find heart's ease in the church. The Lodge is not a substitute for church. Masonry is not a religion, although it has religion. If the church fails, occasionally, it is because all human institutions must fail at times. No minister or church can satisfy all men. Some men find communion with the Most High in Masonry a greater satisfaction than in a church. I think that is the real reason some men love Freemasonry so much."

"You give me credit with being a lot more religious than I do," retorted the New Mason.

"Men are incurably religious," asserted the Old Tiler. "Many don't know it and refuse to call it by that name, like you, for instance! In a church men are told various things about God. In a Lodge they are allowed to tell themselves what they will. In a church you are taught a creed, a dogma. In a Lodge there is neither. In a church you are quiet and respectful and whisper if you speak at all. It is kept high, unspotted from the world. A Lodge is more intimate, personal. You can be jolly in a lodge, except during a degree. Here are just other men, brothers. They think as we do; they believe in the one God, as we do. They repeat the same words, think the same Masonic thoughts, do the same Masonic acts, as we do. We feel at home with them in consequence. "Through years of simple, profound degrees, we weave the Mystic Tie. We cannot say of what it is composed. We cannot put a name to it. St. Augustine, asked of God, answered, 'I know until you ask me- when you ask me, I do not know.' In your heart you know, and I know, what the Mystic tie is- what Freemasonry is. But you cannot say it, nor can I. It is too deep for words. It is the reason we use symbols, for words cannot express it. "Deep in us is something which understands what our brains cannot think; something which knows what our minds cannot comprehend. Masonry speaks to that something in its own language. If we must put it into words, God is the only syllable which seems to fit. But when we say God we mean no special deity, but all that is beautiful in life, in friendship, in charity, in brotherhood. "So, my brother, there is no reason for you to be puzzled; no man can answer your puzzle. Freemasonry is loved by men because it strikes deep into the human heart, and supplies the answer to the question, the food for the hunger, which the tongue cannot express."

"Unless it is the tongue of a wise, wise Old Tiler," finished the New Brother thoughtfully. "And thank you, I am not puzzled now."

Freedom

by William R. Fischer

Freedom is a tough subject, mainly because some people think being free means that you can do what ever you want. Most of us know that is not true. What freedom really means, is that you are able to express yourself as you see fit, with out interference by the government or anyone else, as long as you do no harm to others.

There are political freedoms which will not be discussed here.

Freedom as a state of mind is much more powerful than any physical containment. To lose the body is to lose your worldly life but to lose control of your thoughts to another is definitely hell on earth for a free man. Think of those who were confined for years and when released, became a true leader of men. Their minds were free to think of what could be, rather than what is. They opened up their eyes to the possibility that, there is more than what was before them.

In Masonry freedom is defined as being free from the dominion of passion, pride, prejudice and all the other follies of human nature. We are also free from the false delusion that we need not be obedient to the laws.

As Masons we do not disobey the law. As individuals we help change the law or write new ones for the good of all. This is the way we became free. This is the way we will stay free physically, mentally and spiritually.

When Will Religious Intolerance End

by James Janos

Who is the God of Christianity, Judaism, and Islam? All have roots from the Old Testament and then divide off on different approaches to salvation, communicating, or waiting for a future savior to redeem the lost.

In free masonry who is our God? Our God is the one who created the universe that this earth is part of...a speck of dust when compared to the immensity of the cosmos. As an avid practitioner in amateur astronomy, I have studied every story and text on the creation of the universe and to the latest theories on the end of this magnificent creation of our God.

Who is God? I have tried to understand this for many years, and now at the age of 53 I may finally have a handle on the answer. As a Christian I firmly believe in God as a title for three supernatural beings, being of a spiritual nature, infinite intelligence, and divine control on everything in this universe.

This I believe, because of my finite sources of intellect, my spiritual rearing, and the faith in my belief. My belief came through hearing, hearing by many people of God, and the development of my faith in all of the above. My faith states, I believe in the existence of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. And my faith says that to get to the Father I must believe that Jesus the son died to save me from my sinful nature.

This...all being inspired by God the Holy Spirit. I also believe that the God of the Old Testament refers to Jesus Christ...and not God the Father, as many believe. John 1:1-15 pretty much states this in the divinity of the word, and Jesus Christ being one and the same.

Now I have blown all this away by joining the Brotherhood of Freemasonry.... Or have I? Freemasonry teaches that I should pursue the religion of my choosing and support it...this I do. It teaches that I should seek the light...this I do in my spiritual brotherhood with other Christians and my daily existence with the human race at large.

In the book of James it states that faith without works is dead...and that works without faith is dead. In a church or gathering of people in a religious context, this is the creation and strengthening of their faith. In Freemasonry the fellowship of Freemasons is the development of character to do good works among the populace on this planet.

There is no conflict of Christianity or any other monotheistic belief when people are working as a unit to improve the lives of our fellow men and women. How one believes in their relationship to God is their own personal faith and responsibility. It should not be imposed by force on others, nor should intolerance rule because of different faiths.

As a Christian, I will try to spread the Good News, if I am called on to do it, but I will never force anyone to except it against their will...we are creatures of free choice and free will. The Great Architect of the Universe saw to that. Even if our belief is the only true one...people are free to make choices and as a Christian and as a Freemason...this is what I choose.

Nor will I ever condemn or criticize other people of different Christian beliefs. The old saying of clearing the logs out of your yard, before you clear the sticks from your neighbors yard holds true to religious intolerance. My...how our God must ache in the spirit at the, entire, so-called killing in the name of God. TALK ABOUT TAKING HIS NAME IN VAIN.

In the end, what makes anyone any better than the Taliban or Bin Laden.....Pol Pot...Hitler...Stalin...KKK...Nazi Party...Biggots...Racists... if they practice intolerance.

A Civil War Story

by John Hohenstein

Zerubbabel Lodge #15, Savannah, Georgia

It was a time not long after Fort Sumter and The War of Northern Aggression was well under way. The Yankees, as they are still wont to do, had promptly flocked to Hilton Head and Tybee Islands, the barrier islands on opposite sides of the mouth of the Savannah River. The Savannah Folks didn't mind much that the Yankees had stolen the good beaches, for the water was still a bit cool for Southern preferences and, besides, they knew the gnats and mosquitoes would teach the Yankees a lesson they'd never forget. So, the Southerners, as Southerners are wont to do sometimes, just waited.

They didn't have to wait very long before the Yankees on Hilton Head sent out a messenger under a white flag. It seemed that the Yankees had among them a young fellow who had passed through the Fellow Craft Degree before shipping out. The Yanks were just sitting around slapping gnats when it occurred to one of them that, just maybe, there was a nearby lodge that could test him in the Fellow Craft Degree and raise him to that of a Master Mason.

As luck would have it, there was indeed a lodge in Savannah that would soon be having a Masters Degree.

One morning, not too many days later, a detail of Confederate Cavalry slipped across the Savannah River into South Carolina and traveled through Bluffton to the shore opposite Hilton Head Island.

From there they escorted one Fellow Craft Mason and, I believe, a number of Master Masons of the Northern Persuasion, safely through the Confederate Lines and back through about 35 miles of Confederate defenses to Savannah where the candidate and his witnesses were delivered into the lodge.

The records note that this Brother was indeed proficient in the Fellow Craft Degree and he was raised to the Degree of a Master Mason.

That night another detail of Confederate Cavalry, no doubt Brothers to a man, slipped back across the Savannah River and safely escorted their Brothers back to Hilton Head.