

Jefferson Lodge No. 90  
F. & A.M.  
Charter Granted  
January 15, 1828  
Middletown Masonic Temple  
P. O. Box 348  
1301 South Marshall Road  
Middletown, OH 45044

# TRESTLE BOARD

JEFFERSON LODGE #90      JANUARY 2011



## MASTERS MESSAGE

Greetings Brethren,

December has come and gone and I hope everyone was able to enjoy friends and family this holiday season. I would also like to wish all a Happy New Year and ask that you remember our troops here and abroad that enable us to enjoy the freedoms that we sometimes take for granted.

December 11th Breakfast with Santa was a large success thanks in part to all those who assisted. I would like to thank the following WB Chad Hudson for again taking charge of preparing and cooking the breakfast, to all the brethren who helped serve and cook, the Rainbow girls for all of their help with the children at the craft table and also assisting Santa, Susan Barr for agreeing to play the Christmas music and lead the kids in carols while they waited for Santa to arrive and of course I wish to thank Bro. Meeker for being jolly St. Nick. Thank you to all involved because without you this yearly event would not be the success that it has been.

The officers of Jefferson Lodge will be very busy these next few weeks preparing for our annual Inspection which will be on January 17th. We have a practice lined up for Jan. 9th and one on the 16th. On January 10th we will have an MM Degree. I want to thank all the brethren who are on the Craft Team for their time preparing for this inspection.

January 31st brings the first of 4 community information sessions. This month we will host a Veterans Benefits Information Seminar. Representatives from the Butler County Veteran Services Commission, the My HealthVet Coordinator from the Dayton VA, and the Dayton VA Mobile Clinic will be here to talk about benefits and answer any questions you may have. These sessions are open to everyone not only Masons, so make sure to tell your friends and family and invite them to come. Looking forward to seeing you there that night. The Seminar begins at 7:00pm.

Fraternally Yours,

WM RICHARD DUCKSON

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JANUARY 9 ..... PRACTICE FOR INSPECTION 2:00 PM  
JANUARY 10 ..... MM DEGREE—DINNER 6:00 - DEGREE 7:00 PM  
JANUARY 16 ..... PRACTICE FOR INSPECTION 2:00 PM  
JANUARY 17 ..... INSPECTION - DINNER 6:00 PM - DEGREE 7:00 PM  
JANUARY 31 ..... MONDAY COMMUNITY INFORMATION SESSION 7:00 PM  
FEBRUARY 7 ..... STATED MEETING - DINNER 6:30 PM - MEETING 7:30 PM  
FEBRUARY 14 ..... NO MEETING - HAPPY VALENTINES DAY  
FEBRUARY 19 ..... LADIES AFTERNOON, HAMILTON THEATRE MIAMI UNIVERSITY CAMPUS  
"LEADING LADIES" - 2:00 PM, DINNER AFTERWARD IF INTEREST

**Jefferson Lodge No 90  
Officers**

**Worshipful Master**

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Chad Hudson PM  
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## SECRETARY'S MESSAGE

In memory of our departed brethren called to the glorious and Celestial Lodge Above, we thank them for their service to our Lodge and Freemasonry: MARVIN L. WHITAKER, died 12/26, 80 years old, a 38 year Mason, EARL E. DIETZ, died 12/27, 88 years old, a 57 year Mason, STANLEY J. ROTHMAN, died 12/22, 92 years old, a 31 year Mason, THOMAS L. JONES, died 12/21, 84 years old, a 44 year Mason. — Fraternally, Matthew B. Hudson

## COMMUNITY INFORMATION SESSION

### Are You A Veteran?

Veteran Benefits Information Night  
Monday, January 31st, 7:00 pm  
Middletown Masonic Temple

Jefferson Lodge is hosting a Veteran Benefits Information Night. This information session is open to anyone who would like to know more about VA Benefits, you do not have to be a Mason to attend. The Butler County Veterans Service Commission will present an excellent outreach program designed to promote awareness of benefits for the Veterans of the county and the other services offered through their office. The VA's Mobile Clinic will also be available. The Veterans Mobile Clinic provides on-site outreach to enroll and provide primary care services to Veterans.

## A CIVIL WAR STORY

Many years after the Civil War had ended, a son of Brother L. J. Williams of Downsville Lodge No.464, N.Y., reported in Lodge of a story his father had told him of a Masonic experience he had.

When the war broke out, the Entered Apprentice and the Fellow-craft degrees had been conferred on him in New York. He went out in defense of his country without having been raised to the Sublime Degree of Master mason. It was his misfortune to be taken prisoner of war while at or near Savannah, GA. While he lay in his Southern prison cell, he communicated through some of his friends in the North. His Lodge in New York, through proper officials, got in touch with Zerubbabel Lodge in Savannah, and made the request that as a favor to the Brethren of the North, confer the Master Mason Degree on the Fellow-craft, Brother L. J. Williams.

One night, my father was taken from his prison cell and conducted to a Lodge Room. It was a remarkable occasion. He wore his bedraggled uniform as a token of his sympathy with the cause of the North. All the chairs were filled with Confederate officers. He was surrounded by men who wore the uniform of an army who was on the opposite side of a struggle to the death, but they were Brethren and there he was raised a Master Mason and acclaimed a friend and Brother by his enemies.

But the more significant feature of the story was yet to follow. One night my father escaped from his prison cell and joined up with his company. I have visited Savanna since then and looked up the records of that night in question.

On the same page that records the fact that the degree was then exemplified on my father, there was this brief annotation: "On this night Brother Williams escaped from prison." I have talked with my father about his "escape" and he always smiled peculiarly. You may put it that way he told me, but it wasn't an escape, strictly speaking. For on that night, men came to my prison. They put me in a boat and carried me off some distance and deposited me on some neutral soil between the lines. From there I made it back to my friends.

Who my rescuers were, I have never learned. It is their secret and it has never been disclosed. But in my mind I know exactly to whom I may thank for my "escape." His name is Hiram.