



Mark A. Ohlinger, 32°

32° MASONIC CHILDREN LEARNING CENTER

When I, with my friends are out in the community, I talk about The 32° Learning Center for Children with Dyslexia. Every time I have brought the subject up, there is an immediate response from the person I am speaking with to learn more about the program. I tell them more about the Center's two fold mission; to provide, free of charge, the highest quality, state of the art, multisensory tutorial reading and written language instruction and to train tutors in the art, science, and practice in tutoring children using the Orton-Gillingham approach to teaching, reading, spelling and writing. From there, the discussion usually turns towards stories about them, or their child, or about people they know who have or still struggle with the disorder.

Dyslexia is a neurological based disorder that interferes with the acquisition and processing of language. The impact is different for each person depending on the severity of the condition. The core problem with the disorder is word recognition, reading fluency, spelling, and writing. Some dyslexics will manage to learn early reading and spelling tasks on their own or with some training. With many of these cases, they become much more debilitated when complex language skills are needed. A person with dyslexia may find it difficult to express themselves clearly, or to fully comprehend what others are saying. Such language problems are often difficult to recognize, but they can lead to major problems in school, the workplace, and in relating to other people. The effects of dyslexia reach well beyond the classroom. As you

can imagine, a disorder of this type can affect a person's self-image. It is not uncommon for a student with dyslexia to feel "dumb" and less capable than they really are. It is not uncommon for a student to become discouraged and not want to continue with school due to the stress.

The Valley of Akron Learning Center for Children with Dyslexia has recently started its second year of operations. Currently our Learning Center is helping 18 children on how to deal with this disorder. We expect to be helping 26 students by the end of our fiscal year. Our Director has done an outstanding job in getting our Center up and running. She continues to run a very professional operation. Currently we have tutor training sessions scheduled so we will have more tutors to help achieve our goals.

The Board of Governors for the Center is comprised of people from the community and fellow Scottish Rite Brethren. We have organized our selves into committees that will focus on finances, public relations, fund raising and building and grounds. I am sure you will be learning more about the activities of the committees in the future.

With any new venture of this type, there is a desire to want to excel, so far we are meeting ours and the community's expectation. There is one area where we could use some help from our fellow Brethren. When a student is in session with their tutor, the families are waiting in the seating area outside of the Learning Center alone. We would like to get a group of people that are willing to donate some of their time to be a Greeter. The Greeter's primary responsibility will be to greet the families when they come into the Complex, and offer companionship to the family while the student is going through their training. If you can help out, please contact the Valley of Akron's Secretary's Office.

Mark A. Ohlinger, Treasurer
CLC Board of Governors

POCKET WATCH FOUND

A pocket watch was found at the Summit Masonic Complex. If the watch is yours, please identify, and claim it by contacting David Stobbs at (330.703.3269).

2008 EVENTS

Jan. 14, Monday, at 7:00 PM,
Officer's Association Meeting
Jan. 17, Thursday, at 6:00 PM,
Trustees' Meeting, at 7:30 PM,
Stated Meeting.

Feb. 21, Thursday, at 6:00 PM,
Trustees' Meeting, at 7:30 PM,
short Stated Meeting, followed
by the portrayal of the 10°.

Mar. 17, Monday, at 7:00 PM,
Officer's Association Meeting.
Mar. 18, Tuesday, at 7:00 PM,
Feast of the Paschal Lamb.
Mar. 20, Thursday, at 6:00 PM,
Trustees' Meeting, at 7:30 PM,
Stated Meeting.

April 17, Thursday, at 7:30 PM,
Stated Meeting.
April 17, 18 & 19, Thursday,
Friday & Saturday, 2008
Spring Reunion.

May 12, Monday, at 7:00 PM,
Officer's Association Meeting.
May 15, Thursday, at 6:00 PM,
Trustees' Meeting, at 7:30 PM,
Stated Meeting.
May 22, Thursday, at 7:00 PM,
Annual AASR Officers
Open Installation.

June 6 & 7, Friday & Saturday,
O.C.D. in Cincinnati, OH.
June 14, Saturday, at 6:00 PM,
Abbott Scholarship Dinner.
June 16, Monday, at 7:00 PM,
Officer's Association Meeting.
June 19, Thursday, at 6:00 PM,
Trustees' Meeting, at 7:30 PM,
Stated Meeting.

August 2, Saturday, Craft Fair at
Craftsmen Park.
August 9, Saturday, Annual AASR
Picnic at Craftsmen Park.



Ill. Joseph E. Levy, 33°

A MEMBERSHIP OP-ED

Our forefathers, many of whom were freemasons, founded the United States of America through the United States Constitution. They envisioned a country of freedom and tolerance. There would be taxation but only with responsible representation. There would be religious tolerance without interference of a theocratic government. There would be a Bill of Rights insuring the freedom and independence of all citizens.

America has been slowly losing its core values and freedoms. Patriotism is being de-emphasized to the point where people do not know that it is proper to stand, take your hands out of your pockets, and uncover when the flag passes. To think that there would even be a discussion of removing the words "under God" from the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag is incomprehensible. There is a general malaise of our citizens toward politics, current events, morality and social virtues. We are allowing ourselves to become more dependent on government programs and less reliant on self-sufficiency. The government is becoming more intrusive into our lives, which is costing us financially and socially. We are slowly allowing our freedoms to be taken away. Many of the things that we see governing and influencing our lives are opposed to what our founding fathers intended our country to represent. Many times we are allowing political correctness to advance that which we know to be wrong.

Freemasonry in its current form has existed for about 300-years. Our core values have existed since time immemorial. The Grand Lodge of Ohio is presently celebrating the bicentennial of its

founding in January 1808. Freemasonry and its core values are as relevant today as they were 200-years ago. We place emphasis on Masonic core values that seem to be eroding in the profane world. We each need to work daily to assure that this does not happen. Do you as a Freemason not feel compelled to pass on our legacy and core values to future citizens? Our fraternity is more than paying dues and going to meetings. It is working together to build a better world through faith, hope, and charity. Each day you should ask yourself, "If not me, then who? If not now, then when?"

Your lodge needs your help and support. Whether you are 23 or 103 please try to preserve freemasonry's core values and that of our country. You can only accomplish this through participation among your brethren. Meet with your brethren to share life's experiences and opportunities. You should be looking for and having selective discussions with potential future members that can advance our legacy. You should consider mentoring and passing on your legacy. I have heard from several sources that freemasonry is a sleeping giant. Are you doing your part to arouse the giant? If you value God, family, and country, and live your life accordingly, then your actions will scream so loud that those in the profane world will hear your message. As the result, our country and fraternity will prosper and grow. Our legacy will be preserved, and you will have left your personal mark on life's masterwork.

Joseph E. Levy, 33°, Chairman
Long Range Planning Committee

YOUR OLD PAPERS WILL HELP OUR LEARNING CENTER

You will see a new bright green and yellow paper container in the northwest corner of the Summit Masonic Complex parking lot. When you come to our meetings, please bring your magazines, shopping catalogs, office computer paper, school papers, phone books and mail. Please no shredded paper. Also, they cannot take laminated paper, food containers, plastic of any kind, metal, glass, card-board, chipboard and hardbound textbooks. Our Learning Center will benefit from your support.



Ill. Michael P. Zabor, 33°

VALLEY OF AKRON ENDOWMENT FUND

The Endowment Fund Committee is pleased to report that as of September 30, 2007, our Valley's Permanent Endowment Fund is at nearly 95% of its goal.

The entire Endowment Fund Committee was present for our November meeting along with our Trustee's Representative. A good portion of the meeting was devoted to discussing the future financial challenge facing our valley. At the present time the Endowment Fund's annual earnings are reinvested for the future. This is about to change. These annual earnings will be withdrawn as necessary and will become a part of our Valley's income. It is gratifying to know that we can include this income to assist the Valley with its financial needs.

Let us keep in mind that when the Fund's earnings are used annually, its growth will be impacted, but the principle will always remain. Any and all donations to the fund will continue to grow the principal.

On behalf of the Endowment Fund Committee, I would like to thank all Brothers who have contributed to the fund this past year. Whether you donated with your dues payment or with an additional gift, all donations, however large or small, add up and we thank you all very much. With these annual donations we will soon meet the fund's goal. Please keep in mind that our Endowment Fund is the Valley's financial future. Let us continue the good work.

Michael Zabor 33°, Chairman
Endowment Fund