

# FOREST CITY

LODGE NO. 388 F. & A. M.

November - December 2021

Website: [www.forestcity388.com](http://www.forestcity388.com)

Lyndhurst, Ohio

## MASTER ELECT'S MESSAGE



Brethren of Forest City Lodge No. 388, thank you for the confidence you have reposed in me. I am honored to have been elected to lead this prestigious Lodge during the 2021-2022 Masonic Year. If my journey to the East is any indication, I will have more than

enough help to aid me over the next 12 months. We're blessed with a fantastic line of Officers who have proven time and again that they are up to the task. I want to congratulate each one of them on their election as well. In addition, we have what may be the strongest contingent of Past Master's in the state of Ohio. I fully intend to utilize both excellent resources.

I would not be in the position I am in currently if not for the support of my family, but most especially my wife, Jessica. Without her support and tolerance, I would likely not be in the position that I am today. I am forever grateful to have her in my life and I look forward to the next year with her by my side.

The annual installation of officer's will be conducted on Saturday November 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Dinner will be served at 6:30pm and attendees will have a choice between prime rib and salmon. I know this event is scheduled during the week of Thanksgiving, and potentially more egregiously the same day as the Ohio State vs. Michigan game. I still hope that many of you will be able to attend. The event will be open, and I look forward to seeing all of you

as we conduct the important work of installing our Officer's so that we can tend to the Lodge work at hand.

I am also happy to announce that Brotherhood Night will be back in December! We will serve dinner, again a choice of prime rib or salmon, at 6:30pm on December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021, with our 48<sup>th</sup> annual Brotherhood Night following at 7:35pm. Worshipful Brother Franks and I will jointly be hosting the event and we are happy to announce that Most Worshipful Brother Richard Dickersheid and Most Worshipful Brother Timothy Wheeland will both be in attendance. This event will not have a headcount restriction, but we are going to be taking some extra precautions due to the ongoing pandemic. We will be requiring all attendees to wear masks unless they are at the podium delivering remarks. We will also be acquiring two air scrubbers to help circulate and clean a bit of the air that we'll all be breathing. We're not taking these precautions lightly and those of us who have been planning the event have taken these actions to protect all of you. We want Brotherhood Night to be what it always has been, a moment for Forest City Lodge to shine brightly in both the 22<sup>nd</sup> Masonic District and the State of Ohio. I have no doubt that we will.

Once again, thank you to the brethren of Forest City Lodge for having faith in me to lead this Lodge in 2021-2022. I look forward to the challenge and am excited for the adventure to come.

Ryan Stuver,  
Worshipful Master, Elect

## 2021-2022 OFFICERS

**Worshipful Master - Elect**.....Ryan E. Stuver  
**Senior Warden - Elect**..... Jason A. Kiner  
**Junior Warden - Elect**..... Ronald E. Stuver  
**Senior Deacon - Elect**.....Dylan S. Marsh  
**Junior Deacon - Elect**.....Joshua A. Jaffe  
**Senior Steward - Appointed** .....James D. Paluf  
**Junior Steward - Appointed** .....David L. Jones  
**Secretary - Elect** ..... Alan H. Rothman, PM  
**Associate Secretary - Appointed** ..... Shawn S. Franks, PM  
**Treasurer - Elect**..... Alexander C. Meske, PM  
**Associate Treasurer - Appointed**.....Barry J. Siegel, PM, KYCH, EGS

**Chaplain - Appointed**.....Timothy S. Cline, PM  
**Associate Chaplain - Appointed**..... Shawn S. Franks, PM  
**Tyler - Elect**..... Bruce A. Koval  
**Lodge Education Officer - Appointed**.....Mitchell L. Alperin, PM, PDDGM  
**Associate Lodge Education Officer - Appointed**.....Barry J. Siegel, PM, KYCH, EGS  
**Bulletin Editor**.....Jose Diaz  
**Sunshine Committee Chair** .....Bro. Ralph Jurecki  
**Sunshine Committee Members**  
 W.B. Julian Cohen  
 W.B. Burt Siebert  
 Bro. Dan Lash  
 Bro. John Szucs



Forest City Lodge Web Address  
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## — OUTGOING MASTER’S MESSAGE —

Brethren,

Just two years after the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln, Forest City Lodge received its charter. Shortly thereafter, the brethren of Forest City installed their first Worshipful Master Brother Elisha T. Ellsworth. We were on our way. More than 150 years later, Forest City is alive and well with a rich tradition and well positioned for future success for many years to come.

Why the history lesson? As I think about the conclusion of my year, I cannot help but be proud of the opportunity to do something that fewer than 150 men have had the chance to do; serve this Lodge as Worshipful Master. It was a year with firsts. Here’s a good trivia question, who the first, and hopefully last, Worshipful Master elect to be installed virtually? Yep, that’d be me.

Even after reopening, we were still operating with some restrictions, and we did have to sacrifice some social events. We still found ways to be together. Between our virtual stated meetings, and Wednesday Night Light, I had a chance to meet Brethren from all over the country. One meeting had members from Arizona, Florida, and Georgia. Thanks to all who participated in our virtual format.

We did have the opportunity to enjoy some “live “meetings. We had a great inspection (my hats off to everyone who contributed to a successful evening). We also met for Table Lodge, Memorial Night, Past Masters Night, and more.

Now, just like many other times in our 150 plus years, I have passed the baton. I once again want to congratulate Worship Master Elect, Ryan Stuver. With Ryan in the East, the Lodge is in good hands. I also want to thank the officers for their hard work and resiliency. I am proud to have served with all of you. Finally, I want to thank the brethren of Forest City Lodge #388 for granting me the opportunity to serve.

Shawn Franks,  
Worshipful Master Forest City Lodge #388



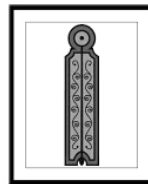
Brethren,

Thank you very much for the confidence that you have reposed in me by allowing me to enter my 10th year or first decade as your secretary. I cannot believe

how much things have changed in the past decade and how many of our ideas and principles still remain the same.

The Masonic philosophy is needed more now than ever. Let me assure you that Forest City Lodge #388 is in good hands. We will continue to grow and thrive in the future.

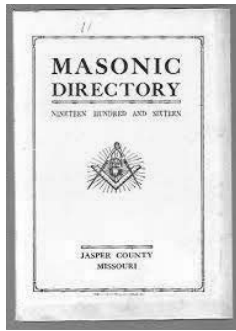
Sincerely and fraternally  
Alan H. Rothman, Secretary



### **JUNIOR WARDEN ELECT**

I am honored to have been elected to serve our Lodge as the Junior Warden for the upcoming year. I appreciate the members vote of confidence and look forward to continuing the journey with this new role in the South. Thank you and I look forward to seeing you in Lodge this year!

Ron Stuver  
Junior Warden - Elect



## HELP WITH NEW LODGE DIRECTORY

We are in the process of compiling information, for a new directory.

Calls are being made, e-mails are being sent, and questions are being asked, such as e-mail addresses, cell phone numbers, wife's name, do you still have a land line? To speed this process call or e-mail Burt Siebert.

E-mail [gramharriet@msn.com](mailto:gramharriet@msn.com)

Phone- 216-3714178 or cell phone- 216-704-4408



## WANT TO GO TO LODGE?

What's that you say? I'm not interested in going to Lodge, because I don't know anybody. Hey, you know me. I have been a member for almost 59 years, and regularly attend the meetings. I am proud of our corps of officers, and the excellent work they do.

We are one of the few lodges that are raising new members.

Forest City Lodge is recognized by the Grand Lodge of Ohio, by having two Grand Lodge Officers, Tim Cline (who was just reappointed to District Education Officer), and Franck Kakou (served as District Education Officer for the past two years, recently appointed to be a District Deputy Grand Master). So, what do you say, I am willing to pick you up.

Call me.

Burt Siebert 216-371-4178 216-704-4408



## Forest City Lodge No. 388 F&AM Brotherhood Fund

Checks should be made to Forest City Brotherhood Fund and mailed to

Forest City Lodge #388 5516 Mayfield Road Lyndhurst, OH 44124

Enclosed, please find a donation for the Brotherhood Fund in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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## — SUNSHINE COMMITTEE REPORT —



Bro. Jason Kiner married Rae Carleton on Saturday, September 18<sup>th</sup>. RWB Greg Kita was the officiant for their exchange of vows. The Officers and Brethren of Forest City Lodge extend their best wishes to the happy couple.

Bro. Robert Dvorin was at Menorah Park for Rehab after his surgery this past August, he is now back at home. The Lodge's Get Well wishes card was sent as was a Planter from Lyndhurst Florist.

Bro. Alvin L. Kitay, a 65 year Master Mason, passed away on Friday, Oct. 13<sup>th</sup> at the age of 92. He was the beloved husband of Nancy (nee Marks). Loving father of Joel Kitay, Richard (Susan) Garber and Robert (Rini) Garber and a devoted grandfather and great grandfather. Graveside services were held Sunday, October 17 at the Mt. Olive Cemetery. A sympathy card was sent from the Officers and Brethren of Forest City Lodge and a \$35.00 donation was made to the Maltz Hospice House of Menorah Park as requested by the family.

Bro. Ted R. Laidman, a 56 year Master Mason passed at the age 82, on Thursday, October 21, 2021. Beloved husband of Evalynne Laidman (nee Press); devoted father of Bro. Bradley Laidman, Scott (Robin) Laidman and Tracie (Richard) Sciotti of Olney, MD and a loving grandfather. Funeral services were at BERKOWITZ-KUMIN-BOOKATZ MEMORIAL CHAPEL on Sunday, October 24, 2021, with interment at Mt Olive Cemetery (Forest City Hebrew Benevolent section). Forest City Masonic Lodge Memorial Services were held prior. A \$35.00 donation was made to the Rescue Village as requested by the family and a sympathy card was sent from the Officers and Brethren of Forest City Lodge.

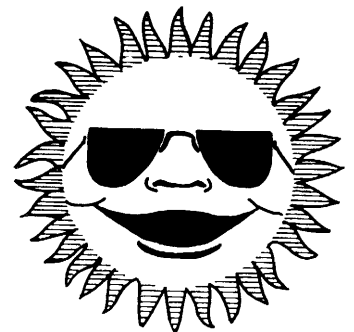
Bro. Melvyn Molecke passed away on Sunday, October 28<sup>th</sup>. He was a 82 years old and a 38 year Master Mason. He is survived by his loving wife, Sheila. A sympathy card was sent to the family from the Officers and Brethren of Forest City Lodge and a \$35.00 donation was made to the Brotherhood Fund in his memory.

Bro. Dan Lash and his bride, Rose, celebrated their 70<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary on October 28<sup>th</sup>. The Officers and Brethren of Forest City Lodge extend their Heartfelt Congratulations.

### Sunshine Committee Members

W.B. Burt Siebert	216-371-4178
W.B. Julian Cohen	216-513-1616
Bro. Dan Lash	216-531-2668
Bro. John Szucs	216-392-3194

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Respectfully Submitted,  
Sunshine Committee Chair

Bro. Ralph Jurecki 216-536-5510

jurecki99@roadrunner.com



**A Quick Guide to Freemasonry by David Harrison**  
(Surrey, UK: Lewis Masonic, 2013) by David Harrison

Professor David Harrison's incursion into Masonic topics is a personal quest. Harrison, a Freemason, and professional historian, joined the craft in 1998 and like most initiates, found himself plagued by questions centered on the dramatic and mystifying ceremonies he had just experienced. Unfortunately for Harrison, his many questions about "this whirlwind of an experience" did not find satisfying answers. According to Harrison, his lodge was filled "with older men who wouldn't answer my questions, saying that it would spoil the experience of the next degree."

*A Quick Guide to Freemasonry* is Harrison's own answer to these lingering questions. David Harrison is no stranger to Masonic research. He's the author of *The Genesis of Freemasonry*, *The Transformation of Freemasonry*, and *The Liverpool Masonic Rebellion and the Wigan Grand Lodge*. His newest effort, however, is a clear departure from his previously heavily researched and, at times, overwritten tomes. His *Quick Guide to Freemasonry* is precisely that: a succinct 96 pages look at the basics of Freemasonry and written in a simple question and answer format. The almost pocket-sized book is neatly divided into seven sections: Frequently Asked Questions, Masonic history, Ritual, Lodge Matters, Masonic Symbolism, Deeper Considerations, and Freemasonry Around the World. Endnotes, a bibliography containing websites, and the ever-present list of famous Freemasons conclude the work. This tiny book also includes nice color illustrations and diagrams.

Unsurprisingly, this guide is aimed at a British audience. Notwithstanding its British "accent," *A Quick Guide to Freemasonry* is useful for both new and not-so-new lodge members of any nationality. The questions it addresses go from the basic to the obscure. Who was the first Freemason? How do Lodges choose their names? What is a Masonic fire? What is the difference between an "alarm" and a "report"? Are there any Christian elements left in Freemasonry? Is the apron truly more ancient than the Golden Fleece or Roman Eagle? And so on. Harrison's guide to the Craft could serve as an interesting tool to conduct educational programs in the lodge and to delve into lesser-known aspects of Freemasonry. It is worth the nine pounds (\$12.08) I paid for it.

José Diaz  
Bulletin Editor

## Life Lessons: Upright Behavior

Reflecting upon my new officer position in the South, and the associated jewel of that office, I am reminded of a situation when I was a young man.

I was a wet-behind-the-ears “shave tail.” A young 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant on active duty in the U.S. Army.

We had just returned from a cold-weather exercise in Alaska when we were out on yet another training exercise back in Georgia. It was February in Georgia, so still cold enough to need heat in the tent at night.



The tent stove heater was new and not properly setup. Yep, you guessed it, a fire started, and caught the tent on fire.

My fault? Technically no, but I was in charge of the site.

I hadn't yet met our new Battalion Commander, but prepared my report, and waited for him all day as I was informed that he wanted to inspect the scene.

He told me that I was earning my nickname (“sparky”) and wanted to know what happened. I swallowed hard and informed him that I had not ensured that the tent stove heater was properly equipped and showed him the damage to the tent.

We took a short walk away from my soldiers who thought I was “done for” (the scene from the 1960's TV series “Branded” comes to mind). The colonel said he appreciated my honesty and told me a story from his early years as a young 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant. It wasn't the smoothest start, but we bonded after that episode.

In Masonry, we are taught that the plumb reminds us to walk uprightly and is the standard by which we test morality. Accept responsibility. Lead by example. Do the right thing and then keep moving.

**Ron Stuver, Junior Warden Elect**



**Forest City Lodge No. 388 F. & A.M.**

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