

FOREST CITY

LODGE NO. 388 F. & A. M.

August - October 2021

Website: www.forestcity388.com

Lyndhurst, Ohio

MASTER'S MESSAGE



Up and Down

Greetings Brethren,

As we wind down our summer and transition to the fall, we still have plenty of work to do. First, I would like to thank WB Alan Rothman for Chairing another successful steak roast. A great venue, with great food, and most importantly great people is a recipe for a great evening. If you didn't make it this year, you should consider next year's event.

We will return to our fall meetings with Memorial Night on September 1 and our second stated meeting on September 15.

Past Master's night has always been a favorite of mine. I always appreciate and enjoy watching the backbone of our lodge take the reins for the evening. This year's takeover will be on October 6. To our Past Masters – I would love to see all of you show the officers how it's done!

Our Annual Meeting will be on November 3. I am excited to see the officers continue to evolve to new roles and responsibilities in Lodge. Our installation of officers will

take place later in the month. I know our Senior Warden has been working diligently to prepare a schedule for the year, including Brotherhood Night and many of Forest City's favorite events.

Aside from our stated meetings, we will finish up the year with three Wednesday night light meetings on September 8, October 13, and November 10.

I don't have to tell you how much COVID has impacted both our Lodge and personal lives. After a spring and summer of relative comfort, the Delta variant has reared its ugly head, and the case count is once again rising. Because of this, we have decided to cancel our Master and Wardens Fall Reception. The officers and I were not happy to make this call, we believe it is the right decision to protect our members.

I know there are still some unknowns regarding how we will proceed through the fall, but I know there is still much to do. As always, I appreciate the flexibility the members and especially officers have offered this year. I am looking forward to getting back to Lodge and seeing all of you soon!

Fraternally,
WB Shawn Franks

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Junior Warden Jason A. Kiner
Senior Deacon Ronald E. Stuver
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Rejuvenating the Friendship Room Threshold

Today I am going to talk about changes: changes that are happening on a statewide level and changes to Forest City Lodge #388's website.

This year the Grand Lodge of Ohio (GLO) is going to issue dues statements directly from Grandview, GLO's all-in-one member platform for Ohio Freemasons. If you have not logged into Grandview and updated your Masonic record, please take the opportunity to do so by visiting this address <https://www.freemason.com/how-to-set-up-a-grand-view-member-account/>. Why is this important? It matters because this year you will have the ability to pay your dues with a credit card and from a secure website without ever having to write or mail a check! And remember, this year the GLO will issue new dues cards.

It's also important because the right data matters. For example, thanks to the Grandview system I can tell you that Forest City Lodge has access to 88% of its members' email addresses, 33% of their mobile phone numbers, 81% of their home (landlines) phone numbers, and 99% of their home addresses. As an aside, with the decline in landlines, I must wonder how many of these home phones and addresses are valid. On a less celebratory note, only 23% of you are using Grandview to keep up your own information. Again, please consider updating your Masonic record via Grandview. Remember that Grandview stores more than addresses and phone numbers. Other relevant matters such as last wishes, and the location of your Masonic apron can be stored and then retrieved from the system when needed.

Today, I am also pleased to report that our website www.forestcity388.com will be experiencing a complete makeover. For the last 18 years, I have served as the site's sole maker/designer and content coordinator. Web design and/or programming are not my expertise. This adventure started as a mere hobby. Now, the time has come to pass the torch to a younger more computer savvy techie. So, I urge you to visit our page around September and see how version 2.0 is much better than 1.0.

By now, I bet you're wondering why this article is titled "Rejuvenating the Friendship Room Threshold." I have learned many new skills by being a mason: how to fell trees with the utmost precision, how to use a divining rod, and even how to lose weight and keep it off. My most recent lesson was centered on the symbolic nature of everyday things. As many of you may know I am on the Lyndhurst Masonic Center's Temple Board. We are engaged on a capitalization improvement project and I am pleased to say that our efforts are being noticed. While working on one of my recent projects, I became enthralled with the symbolic nature of bringing new candidates into the Masonic Center Friendship Room for their membership meeting. At the time, I was engaged in a very mundane activity: painting the room's threshold doorway. Once finished, I thought about the new candidates: what would they be thinking during their membership meeting, what their future aspirations might be, and how we, as Masons, could help in molding these men as good citizens? In other words, it dawned on me that the mere act of painting the room's threshold doorway is impactful. It also made me reconsider our past behavior. How many times have we failed to display the perfect friendship room door to our guests, candidates, fellow officers, and Lodge members? It is my sincere goal that every one of you will have a clean, fresh, and beautiful friendship room door experience from our Lodge and from our fraternity from this point forward.

Sincerely and fraternally Alan H Rothman P.M.

— WHAT MAKES A MASON? —



by George H. Free

What makes you a Mason, O brother of mine?
It isn't the dueguard, nor is it the sign,
It isn't the jewel which hangs on your breast,
It isn't the apron in which you are dressed,
It isn't the step, nor the token, nor grip,
Nor lectures that fluently flow from the lip,
Nor yet the possession of that mystic word,
On five points of fellowship duly conferred.
Though these are essential, desirable, fine,
They don't make a Mason, O brother of mine.

That you to your sworn obligation are true-
Tis, that, brother mine, makes a Mason of you.
Secure in your heart you must safeguard your trust,
With lodge and with brother be honest and just,
Assist the deserving who cry in their need,
Be chaste in thought, in your word and deed,

Support him who falters, with hope banish fear,
And whisper advice in an erring one's ear.
Then will the Great Lights on your path brightly shine,
And you'll be a Mason, O brother of mine.

Your use of life's hours by the gauge you must try,
The gavel to vices with courage apply
Your walk must be upright, as shown by the plumb,
On the level, to bourn whence no travelers come
The book of your faith be the rule and the guide,
The compass your passions shut safely inside
The stone which the Architect placed in your care
Must pass the strict test of His unerring square,
And then you will meet with approval divine,
And you'll be a Mason, O brother of mine.



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Brotherly Love: Freemasonry and Male Friendship in Enlightenment France
(Cornell University Press, 2014) 280 p. By Kenneth B. Loiselle

The meaning and purpose of Freemasonry are always topics of debate. What is Freemasonry all about? The question, albeit unpretentious, retains its currency. For some the answer is straightforward. Freemasons insist that the Craft is about the creation and nurturing of male bonding, life-long friendships, and camaraderie. Some non-Masons see a dark conspiracy centered on the formation of a one-world government. Others have reached different conclusions.

To argue, as Masons do, that friendship is at the heart of the Masonic experience is cozy yet glib. What is friendship? How are friendships created and nurtured? What is it about the common space of Masonic lodges that makes the spark of friendship ignite and shine? Answering these questions is the task Kenneth Loiselle took on in his book *Brotherly Love: Freemasonry and Male Friendship in Enlightenment France*. In it he argued that just as friendship “laid at the heart of Enlightenment preoccupations with sociability,” it also rested at the core of French Masonic lodges in 18th century France.

In *Brotherly Love*, Loiselle claimed that Freemasonry is an ideal arena in which “to explore the changing nature of male friendship in Enlightenment France.” Freemasonry was the largest and most diverse voluntary organization in the decades before the French Revolution. Nearly, fifty thousand Frenchmen joined lodges. The membership extended across the social spectrum from artisans to nobles. Men, Loiselle propounded, were attracted to Freemasonry because it enabled them to cultivate enduring friendships that were “egalitarian and grounded in emotion.” Loiselle’s conclusions rest comfortably on scores of private letters, rituals, the minutes of lodge meetings, and the speeches of many Freemasons. His analysis reveals the thought processes of these early Freemasons, the manners in which they maintained friendships both within and beyond the lodge, and the place women occupied within this male-dominated world.

For those of us untrained in the complexities of French history and its archival methods, *Brotherly Love* is an acquired taste. However, Freemasons will find Loiselle’s discussion of the Scottish-born Jacobite Chevalier Andrew Ramsey’s famous speech quite informative. Ramsey is noteworthy among American Freemasons because he allegedly insinuated a Masonic-Templar connection. (He did not!) That historical inaccuracy aside, what really matters is that Loiselle widened his lens and interpreted Ramsey’s Essay as a departure from the pessimistic views of Thomas Hobbs and John Locke. According to Loiselle, Ramsey’s true message is that friendship and sociability are “the glue that keeps society together not Hobbs’ compelling state or Locke’s individual greed.” In other words, friendship, not force is the mortar that binds us all.

Modern-day Freemasons would do well in internalizing Loiselle’s notion that friendship was the beating heart of early French lodges. They should understand and take pride in the idea that the then radical notion that free men could meet, enjoy each other’s company, and seek truth away from the Church hierarchy and the State apparatus was, and remains, one of Freemasonry’s foundational beliefs.

By José Diaz, Bulletin Editor



Life Lessons: Operative Masonry

Life Lessons. Sometimes you don't even know that you're learning.



I was 15-years-old and working at the local cemetery during my summer vacations. Cutting grass and other odd jobs. Outside. In the sunshine.

The cemetery superintendent, who was a WWII veteran and retired bank president, told me to fix the old stone wall down in the creek bed.

I loaded up a wheelbarrow full of tools, a bag of cement mix, and we ventured off to the front entrance of the cemetery. I received a brief lesson how to mix cement using water from the creek and the use of a trowel to repoint the stone wall.

A few hours later the superintendent stopped by wondering why I wasn't finished yet. He found me knee deep in mud with the entire wall torn apart and stones laid out methodically across the open field.

"What're you doin", he asked? I told him that repointing didn't work cause the stones just kept falling out of place. So, I decided to rebuild the wall from scratch.

The old fella took off his hat, scratched his head, chuckled, and then jumped down in the muddy water with me. He gave me a few more tips on how to build a solid foundation then left me alone for a couple days while I rebuilt the wall.



We cleaned up the rest of the creek bed that summer, and he renamed it after me. There's an old, yellow-faded map in the cemetery office and it has my name still inscribed - "Ron's Run".

As young teenagers we were usually perplexed by the older man who was our boss during those summers when we worked at that cemetery. And while we didn't really understand back then, I learned a lot of lessons that I've come to appreciate.

It sort of reminds me of the relationship between an Entered Apprentice and a Past Master of a Masonic Lodge.

– Ron Stuver, Senior Deacon