

FOREST CITY

LODGE NO. 388 F. & A. M.

January - February 2013

Website: www.forestcity388.com

Lyndhurst, Ohio

MASTER'S MESSAGE



Greetings, my Brethren, and best wishes for a Happy and Prosperous New Year!

The ending of one year and the beginning of another inevitably provide an opportunity for assessment of our activities and their purposes, as well as time to reflect on what we did, how it was done, and to what extent it needed to be done better.

As Masons, we are taught to look to the Great Light of Masonry, the Volume of Sacred Law, for both guidance and inspiration. With that admonition in mind, I would recommend to every Brother that they seek out Chapter 3 of the Book of Ecclesiastes. This is the chapter that begins:

"To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven;

A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted..."

Through eight more verses of the beautiful poetry of this book, it continues on the theme of Time, and of timeliness. Our nation has recently come through a major national election, the implications of which are not yet fully known, and may not be for some time. We had to make our decisions NOW, as the Scottish Rite Mason would say, not at some future time when we had more info about the possible outcomes. Whether we made our decisions to plant or to pluck up, those decisions have been made, and it will rest with future generations to determine the right or the wrong of them.

So it goes also for our Lodge. We have seen many transitions recently, probably most important, the retirement of our beloved Secretary, Ill. Morton S. Negin, after 26 years' service in that office. As with any such transition – no one holds office in any Lodge except for a period of "...a little, brief authority..." – other Brothers have stepped up to shoulder the burdens which

this "...amiable, distinguished, and exemplary..." Brother bore cheerfully and so well for so long. Several other Committee chairmen and Event chairmen, who have served this Lodge long and faithfully, have chosen to acknowledge the frost which heralds the winter of their years, and to step out of harness, and other Brethren will now become the 'workhorses' of our Lodge.

We have recently completed the first decade of the 21st Century, and as a Lodge, are midway through the 14th decade of our chartered existence. Much in society, and much in Freemasonry, has changed since our first annual Installation of Officers 145 years ago. Inevitably, there are some who would argue that the changes that have come to our Fraternity have been good ones, and there are some who would argue that those changes have been harmful. Those who were making those changes at the time hoped that they would be for the good, but even they could not predict that absolutely.

As the Book of Ecclesiastes explains, change is inevitable. When faced with necessary change, the wise man counsels caution. However, when faced with necessary change, the wise man also counsels movement. There must be a reasonable balance maintained between these two poles – we cannot allow 'caution' to become 'inaction', and therefore 'stagnation' – that leads to the death of the organism, or the organization. Similarly, we cannot allow 'movement' to happen so fast that we wind up deep in the realm of 'Unanticipated Consequences' – a term with which historians, sociologists, and anthropologists are all too familiar.

This year, we will be facing several possible changes to the way we operate our Lodge, especially in financial areas. Some of those possible changes are already under discussion. I would encourage all Brethren to attend Lodge as frequently as possible, to acquaint yourselves with the issues at hand, and so that we may have the benefit of the wise counsel of as many Lodge Brethren as possible, as we face the issues that are already facing us.

Fraternally,
W.B. Chester F. Willey

FOREST CITY LODGE #388

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BEING THANKFUL

Dear Brethren,

As we all have so recently gone through our respective holidays and traditions I know we have all heard repeatedly that we should be thankful for what we have and not be sad for what we do not. To maybe expound on what that means, I have a personal take.

My wife and I were recently out shopping for new couches that were to be our gifts to each other. In measuring our living room, we realized that we cannot fit a wraparound couch in it; we missed it by 6 inches. While frustrating, I realized that this was the tradeoff of owning a small home and the indulging in our love of travel. I started to think about all the places we have gone this year and remembered driving through a town in Jamaica on our way to the Chukka Forest to go ATV riding.

The conditions that these people lived in would absolutely never be acceptable even in our poorest government housing buildings. Many homes were built on the sides of hills with nothing but dirt for a floor. They were 400-square-foot huts made out of cinder block with straw roofs and bamboo doors. There is no plumbing, with only shared outhouses and wells. If they can find work, it usually comes in the sugarcane fields at a pay rate of just enough to feed their families. There is nowhere in our country that comes close to their situation, and this is to say nothing of what we saw in Haiti.

Earlier during that same day, I had gone grocery shopping. I went to a heated store with a selection of any food I could want. When I got home to my 1100 square foot Cape Cod home in my car with heated leather seats I started to put away my groceries. I had forgotten that I had stocked up on canned goods before Hurricane Sandy. In attempting to rearrange my cabinet, alas, I had to leave one can out; it would not all fit. After playing Tetris with all the food in my fridge to fit everything and stocking up the downstairs freezer with steak, I then left to go on that couch shopping trip.

At that moment of realizing that I could not fit a couch, remembering all that my wife and I have, remembering that we have more food than we can fit in our nice warm house, that day also being a few days after the school shooting in Newtown, Connecticut, it really hit me: the time with our families, the meals that we will have with them, and the homes we have to celebrate in, are way more than millions of people around this world could ever even hope for this time of year.

Fraternally,
Scott Muharsky
Junior Warden

FROM THE SECRETARY'S QUILL

To All My Brethren Where Ever So Dispersed:

I bring you greetings from the Southeast. This is my first official article as your newly installed Secretary. The last article was actually written prior to my election or installation. Sorry, but the truth hurts sometimes. We are facing some real tough times for Freemasonry, and without your help—and possibly even with your assistance—we are in for some tough times. For the first time since 1914, we are under 100,000 members in the state of Ohio. This trend is clearly addressed in an article published by The Masonic Service Association, entitled “*About Time*”, which can be found at: http://www.msana.com/aboutime_foreword.asp

Closer examination of this national trend needs to be addressed, not only for the good of our beloved fraternity, but for mankind as well. The government of this country and the courts of law owe many attributes to the cornerstones of Masonic teachings. Without the glue that bonds society together, we will all suffer. It bewilders me to think that apathy and procrastination will sometime overwhelm us and diminish us into an existence of has-beens.

As an example, let us examine our own Lodge. Today, by comparison, we are only at 403 members. To further illustrate the trend, as of today we still have 37 members, or 9.2%, still owing dues. Why, I ask, are we not meeting your needs? Do you not have a feeling of having an extended family? Are we in need of a Fraternal makeover?

Please examine yourself and ask: What can I do for Masonry today to impact our tomorrow?

Fraternally,
W.B. Alan Rothman
Secretary

TRESTLEBOARD

(Thanks to the efforts of WB Burt Task, there WILL be an early-bird dinner prior to each Stated Meeting listed, except when there is a more formal dinner scheduled)

Wednesday, February 6, 2013 – Stated Meeting
INSPECTION – EA Degree

Wednesday, February 20, 2013 – Stated Meeting
Birthdays (January – February) – Peter Molay
Special program on Masonic Presidents
presented by
MWB Charles R. Murphy, PGM
“Ugly Tie Night”

Wednesday, March 6, 2013 – Stated Meeting
Special program on the 70th anniversary of the
sinking of WWII Troopship ‘Dorchester’

Wednesday, March 20, 2013 – Stated Meeting
Sports Night

Wednesday, April 3, 2013 – Stated Meeting
Special Program on the impact of the
Holocaust on European Freemasonry
by William M. Carter III, CCBLA

Saturday, April 13, 2013
Grand Master’s Reception

Wednesday, April 17, 2013 – Stated Meeting
Birthdays (March – April) – Peter Molay

Wednesday, May 1, 2013 – Stated Meeting

Saturday, May 4, 2013
Master/Wardens’ Dinner-Dance
Executive Club at Landerhaven

SATURDAY, MAY 11, 2013
STATE-WIDE GRAND MASTER’S CLASS

Wednesday, May 15, 2013 – Stated Meeting
Special program to honor Mason’s Mothers,
wives, daughters, and widows
(Music by Note-Oriety)

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

2012/2013

* ex-officio, per By-Laws & Standing Resolutions

Finance (SR 2) Mitchell Alperin Gary Solomon	Sunshine Committee: John Szucs, Chairman Howard Marx, Chairman-Emeritus Neil Cantor Paul Fine Dan Lash Harvey Morrison Don Samuels Burt Siebert Larry Simon Marvin Smith Lou Snow Burt Task Dan Zeligson
Budget (SR 5) CFW – WM* Jackie Woldering – SW* Scott Muharsky – JW* Alan Rothman – Secretary* Jerome Kustin – Treasurer* Barry Siegel (1) Sam Kool (1) Howard Marx (2) Zalmen Rzepka (2) Burt Siebert (3) Neil Cantor (3)	Investigations: Don Samuels Dan Lash Marvin Danziger
Endowment Fund (SR 9) WM SW JW Secretary Treasurer Franck Kakou (1) Barry Siegel (2) William Hoon (3)	Membership: All Past Masters All Current Officers Dan Lash Marvin Danziger
Grievance (Article XII) – 3 Members ONLY Zalmen Rzepka Stuart Marks Leonard Clark	Communications: Hugh Sullivan Jackie Woldering CFW
Legal Mitchell L. Alperin Morton S. Negin	Temple Board Representative: Barry Siegel
Social Co-Chairmen: Burton J. Task Jerome Kustin	Birthdays Chair: Peter Molay Fellowcraft Team Captain: Don Samuels

2013 ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS

Entertainment and Our Town and All Around Town. The costs still remain the same: \$30 for the Entertainment Book and \$28 for the Our Town Book. If you had plans on buying either, please buy from the Lodge, as this is strictly a fundraiser for the Lodge.

Available at our Lodge meetings. Or you can make other arrangements by calling me either at home at 216-932-4094 or at my office at 216-662-5555.

Fraternally, Barry Siegel, PM

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE REPORT



Members

who have passed to the Celestial Lodge Above

- ◆ Bro. Richard Perlmutter

Deceased relations of our Brethren and their family

- ◆ Andrea Woldman, wife of Bro. Norman Woldman

Hospitalized or recuperating either at Home or in a Nursing Facility

- ◆ Bro. Saul Eisen had surgery in Euclid General, and has been transferred to Menorah Park.
- ◆ W.B. Mark Nathanson is recovering from his quadruple bypass.
- ◆ Jean Danziger is recovering at home and doing well.
- ◆ Mildred Task, mother of W.B. Burt Task, is currently at Menorah Park.
- ◆ Bro. Neal Cantor is recovering from shoulder surgery.
- ◆ W.B. Jerry Block is home from the hospital, and he is resting at home.

Congratulations

- ◆ Susan and Bro. Shawn Sanders for their new baby girl, Raegan.

Please keep the Sunshine Committee informed of news about yourselves and our Brethren or families.

FOREST CITY LODGE SUNSHINE COMMITTEE 2013

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On New Year's Day, Past Masters of Forest City Lodge joined together for an outdoor 5K Fun Run. From left to right: R.W.B. Mitch Alperin, Coach Laura Coletta, W.B. Barry Siegel, and R.W.B. Harvey Morrison.

MUSINGS FROM THE WEST

We have an interesting year ahead in 2013, as captained by Worshipful Master Chester F. Willey, Jr. And as Senior Warden, and a Past Master, I would be glad to discuss ideas with anyone for events to put on the Forest City Lodge calendar for the year following. We will most likely be making an updated directory later this year, so please expect a call from myself or a member of the directory committee to verify your address, telephone and email information in the near future. Here's hoping for a fantastic Inspection in February, and early spring relief from the cold weather.

Over the Christmas holiday, Mary and I took time to visit our grandchildren, Joey and Sam, along with our daughter Ruth and her husband Phil at their new home in Portsmouth, R.I., as well as our son, Thom, who was able to join us for one day. Since Phil and Ruth returned from South Korea—where Phil was last stationed and where Sam was born—it has been nice to know that we are in the same time zone, instead of on opposite sides of the world.

We had an interesting encounter on the trip home, which I want to share with you. As Mary and I sat at the Philadelphia Airport gate awaiting our flight to Cleveland, I reached into one of our bags to retrieve some 'trick-or-treat' sized bags of pistachios left over from Halloween that Ruth had given to us. As I opened the larger bag and was about to open one of the smaller bags, a young woman in her 20s across from us asked, "Are those pistachios?" "Yes," I replied, "would you care for some?" "Absolutely not," she said, "I can't even be around those as I am deathly allergic to nuts! I would appreciate it if you would not eat those around me!" I responded by putting the small bags away unopened.

I thought that was the end of the encounter, but a woman in her late 50s sitting next to us and about 7

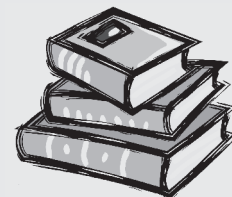
feet away from the young woman piped up and said to her, "I've been sitting here eating nuts for more than an hour already and you've had no symptoms." "Well," said the young woman, "you'll just have to move!" "No, I've been here for an hour and a half, well before you came along, so you're the one who should move," said the older woman. Considering her options, the young woman left in a huff, after exclaiming, "Thank you very much for your consideration!" Shortly thereafter, we passed around the nuts to several people around us and struck up a conversation with the older lady and found her to be a very personable and intelligent individual.

My thought exercise for you, the reader, is this: What would you have done if you had been in the position of either of the two women in this story, either the nut-allergic young woman or the nut-eating older woman? The older woman commented to us later that she had given the information that she was eating nuts voluntarily (she had them in her carry-on bag and was reaching in and getting one or two at a time), and was telling the younger woman both as a warning and to question the real severity of her allergy. The younger woman left in a huff with a withering comment. Was she entitled, or properly indignant for another's inconsideration? Did the length of time that either had been sitting at the gate have any bearing on the situation? Is it the responsibility or right of a person with an allergy or other difficulty to notify those around him or her and request accommodations, or should they voluntarily remove themselves from the offending environment? Was the older woman rude, or righteous in her refusal to move? How far would you, as a Mason, go toward making peace if this encounter had escalated? A minor incident, but thought-provoking.

Fraternally,
S.W. Jackie Woldering, P.M.



At our annual Brotherhood Night dinner, Most Worshipful Brother James F. Easterling, Jr., Grand Master of Masons in Ohio, chows down on that famous Barberton delicacy: the Fried Baloney Sandwich. It was specially prepared for him, and for the other Grand Lodge Family members in attendance, by Mrs. Mary Woldering, wife of our Senior Warden Jackie Woldering, P.M. The joke started this past summer at the roll-out sessions for the Grand Master's upcoming program, when he described a fundraiser that he proposed—selling fried baloney sandwiches—at a community event in Barberton for his own Lodge, National Lodge #568. A good laugh and a good time were had by all.



Mika the Queen's Quilt

Bro. David Beckman recently had a book of his published, entitled *Mika and the Queen's Quilt*. This book was written for readers in the 7-years to young adult age range. It is currently available for purchase from both Amazon.com and BarnesAndNoble.com.

FOREST CITY LODGE #388 F. & A.M.

Master and Wardens Dinner Dance

SATURDAY, MAY 4, 2013



EXECUTIVE CLUB

6111 LANDERHAVEN DR. • LYNDBURST, OHIO 44124



Social Hour: 6:30 P.M. — ENDLESS HORS D'OEUVRES
FILET MIGNON, SALMON OR CHICKEN



ENTERTAINMENT

\$35.00 per person

Tables of Eight (8) and Ten (10) Available



Send checks and reservation form to:

Marvin Danziger

22655 Chagrin Blvd., Apt. 414 • Beachwood, OH 44122 • (216) 759-9111 (must dial 216)

~ Please List Dinner Choices ~

Name _____ Name _____

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Name _____ Name _____

Name _____ Name _____



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