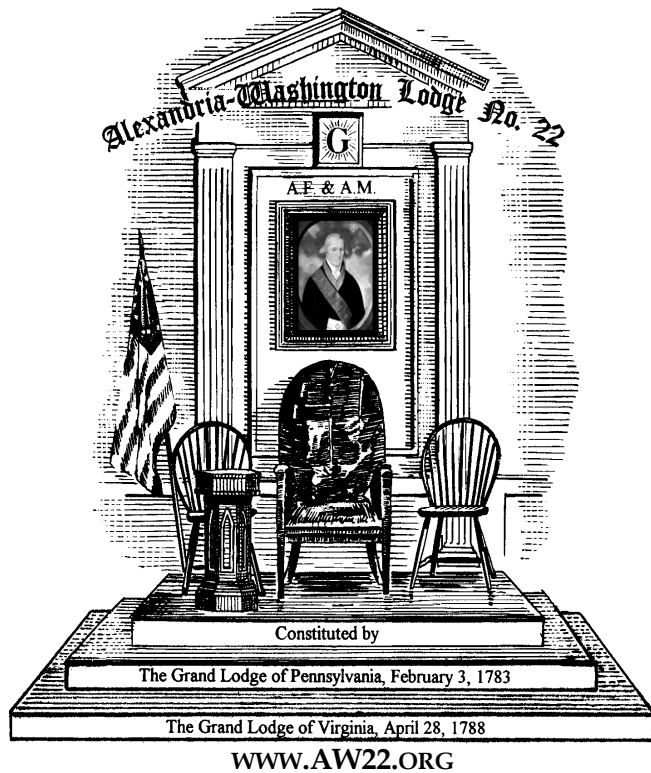


Master's Message



Lodge Bulletin

JULY 2022

Brethren—

Hello Brethren! I hope this message finds you all in good health and great spirit. The summer is finally here and I hope you are enjoying the nice weather. Every year when the heat and humidity rolls around, I myself, find new and greater appreciation for air conditioning!

With many people enjoying vacations and time with family during summer, it can at times feel a like Masonic activities and events slow down a bit. Not at Alexandria - Washington Lodge No. 22! We have one of our most exciting events of the year in July. Our stated meeting falls on July 14 and we have an amazing and unique evening planned. To cover the educational portion of our evening and due, to me being a huge ritual nerd, we have invited our brethren from the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Virginia to exemplify their variation of the Entered Apprentice Degree. It is an amazing opportunity to get to know our brethren from PHA as well as to enjoy some amazing Masonic ritual. We expect a higher number of visitors this month, so please make sure to RSVP at reservations@aw22.org if you plan on attending, so we make sure we have enough food for everyone.

Speaking of the EA Degree, as of last month our ranks have grown by three more candidates, who were initiated as Entered Apprentices. Our Senior Steward is planning something special for them that we are looking to add as a follow up to our degrees in the future. Brother Ron will do a special presentation for them going over the EA degree and explaining all the symbolism in it. This presentation will take place at the lodge room on July 9 and is open to Masons only. Please join us if you can help us enrich the experience for our newly initiated Brethren.

With the high number of candidates going through the degrees, we continue to look for additional catechism coaches to help us prepare our brethren as they advance through the various degrees. I welcome you all to join us at our practices and learn or refresh some of your ritual as well and perhaps assist as a catechism coach, it is a very rewarding experience working.



Sincerely & Fraternaly,

Denislav V. Dantev
Worshipful Master
Master@AW22.org
703-649-1509





JULY 2022

July 2

10:00 a.m. Catechism School

July 7

6:30 p.m. Catechism School
7:30 p.m. Lodge Ritual School

July 9

10:00 a.m. Catechism School

July 14, *Bastille Day*

6:30 p.m. Dinner, please RSVP at reservations@AW22.org
7:30 p.m. Stated Communication

**Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Virginia
Entered Apprentice Degree Exemplification**

July 16

10:00 a.m. Catechism School

July 21

6:30 p.m. Catechism School
7:30 p.m. Ritual School

July 23

10:00 a.m. Catechism School

July 25

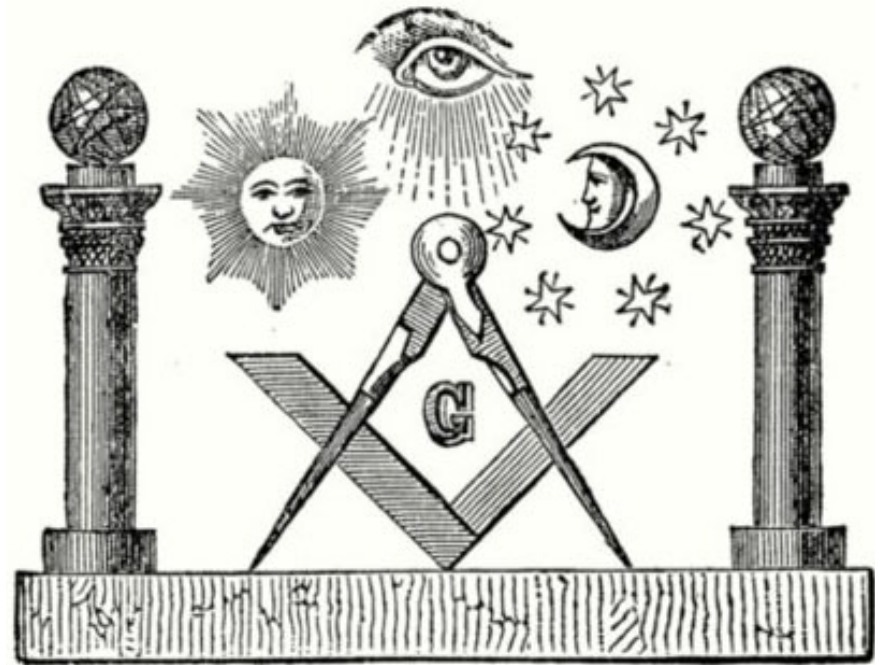
7:00 p.m. Esoteric Corner (online)

July 26

District 1A Masters and Wardens Association Meeting
6:30 dinner, 7:30 meeting Elmer Timberman Lodge, No. 54
6911 Columbia Pike, Annandale, Virginia

July 28

6:30 p.m. Catechism School
7:30 p.m. Ritual School



Bill of Fare

JULY 14, 2022

GRILLED NEW YORK STRIP

with lemon herb butter

GRILLED SALMON

adobo marinated, topped with roasted pineapple salsa

ROASTED RUSSET POTATO WEDGES

MIXED GREEN SALAD

greens, cucumbers tomatoes, onions, with a citrus vinaigrette

Suggested Donation \$10.00

Please RSVP to Reservations@AW22.org

“We Stand on a Level”

Black Freemasons Fight for Parity with White Lodges

By Brian Benoit, January 18, 2021

Intrepid souls who ventured out into the blizzard in downtown Cincinnati, Ohio, on March 7, 1875 might have encountered a singular apparition: a procession of formally-dressed African-American men marching through snow drifts accompanied by “a first-class band.” They were the Brotherhood of Colored Masons, one of many Black-organized masonic lodges that had been fighting literally and symbolically against White hegemony for a century nearly to the day.

“The celebration by the Brotherhood of Colored Masons yesterday of the Hundredth Anniversary of Prince Hall’s Admission into the Craft was certainly conducted under most unfavorable circumstances. The snow-storm was at its worst during the procession, and lay often in great drifts across the line of march. Umbrellas afforded little protection against the white clouds of whirling flakes caught up and driven hither and thither by a strong north-west wind, and most of the processionists were well wet through ere the march was over. A first-class band, however, tended somewhat to keep the men’s spirits up; and spite of wind and weather they generally looked jubicund.” *Cincinnati Enquirer* (Ohio), March 8, 1875.

The date and procession marked the centennial of the admission of Prince Hall and fourteen other Black men into a British military masonic lodge in Boston on March 6, 1775. It would be another nine years before the Grand Lodge of England permitted Hall and his associates to constitute African Lodge No. 459, and another three years before they would actually receive their charter. Dispensation was granted by British masonic authority; the White masons of Massachusetts refused to recognize their Black brethren. The term of art was that the African Lodge was “clandestine,” not created in a regular or authorized way. The masonic legitimacy of “Prince Hall lodges” is still controversial in some jurisdictions.

However spurious or irregular they were regarded in the United States in 1875, the Grand Lodge of Germany had no problem recognizing Prince Hall lodges. This put the German masons at odds with the White lodges of the United States.

“This centennial will be regarded with the more interest because of the recent recognition of the Prince Hall Grand Lodge by the unanimous vote of the convention of the Grand Lodges of Germany—perhaps the grandest event in its history. This endorsement places them, so far as their relations with the great body of the European Masons is concerned, on an equality with the other Masons of this country. More than that—it is a step that may hasten the recognition of the Prince Hall Lodge by the Grand Lodges of the United States, as a denial by them that the Grand Lodge is properly constituted cannot be regarded as otherwise than as an offence by the German Masons, and may lead, as a leading German predicted the action just taken would do, to a discontinuance of intercourse between American and German Masons.” *Boston Traveler*, June 11, 1875.

Given that by 1875 the failure of Reconstruction was an accomplished fact, the writer was remarkably optimistic as to the results of German recognition of Prince Hall masons. The article continues: “When once the colored Masons of this country are recognized as brethren of the order by other Masons, there will be no further need of Civil Rights bills and Force bills. The questions of the rights of colored men to vote, to hold office, to ride in public conveyances, to visit theatres, to become guests at public houses, will be settled on the basis of justice.”

Nearly seventy years prior to the American Civil War, Prince Hall himself was more pragmatic in his views on race relations. The following excerpt comes from Rev. Jeremy Belknap in response to a query from Judge St. George Tucker of Williamsburg, Virginia, regarding whether harmony existed between Blacks and

Whites in Massachusetts in 1795. Tucker quoted Hall whom he consulted in drafting his reply: “Harmony in general (says he) prevails between us as citizens, for the good law of the land does oblige every one to live peaceably with all his fellow citizens, let them be black or white. We stand on a level, therefore no pre-eminence can be claimed on either side. As to our associating, there is here a great number of worthy good men and good citizens, that are not ashamed to take an African by the hand; but yet there are to be seen the weeds of pride, envy, tyranny, and scorn, in this garden of peace, liberty and equality.” *Collections of the Massachusetts Historical Society*, for the year 1795.

Belknap then elaborated on the African Lodge where Hall presided as Master Mason over a membership of thirty persons. “The African Lodge, though possessing a charter from England, meet by themselves; and white masons not more skilled in geometry, will not acknowledge them. The reason given is, that the blacks were made clandestinely in the first place, which, if known, would have prevented them from receiving a charter. But this inquiry would not have been made about white lodges, many of which have not conformed to the rules of masonry. The truth is, they are ashamed of being on equality with blacks.” *Collections of the Massachusetts Historical Society*, for the year 1795.

Prince Hall was royal in the estimation of his fellow masons but otherwise of humble origin. Tracing his ancestry is challenging as his name was common in the Colonial era. He was born around 1738, possibly in Barbados, and may have been enslaved in his youth. He received manumission papers in 1770 and later made his living as a leatherworker in Boston. It’s possible that he served briefly in the Revolutionary War; he petitioned the American government to allow Blacks to serve in the military, and six persons bearing his name are listed in the pension rolls. His petition for military service by Blacks was denied—until the British government promised freedom for Blacks who fought on its side. In 1777 he lobbied Massachusetts to abolish slavery. In 1787 he petitioned Massachusetts to provide schools for Black children. When that didn’t come to pass he started a school in his home. When Hall died in 1807 there were African lodges in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and Providence, Rhode Island, under the auspices of the African Lodge of Boston.

Freemasons are officially neutral in matters of race, but in practice there has been widespread discrimination for many years. The following excerpt is from 1871. “Differences of religious faith among Masons would not create one-tenth part of the commotion, as the raising of this question of race does. On this question of affiliation with races of all colors, or of one particular color, the men of the past, the men of the present, and the men of the future, have distinct ideas and feeling. The first say ‘no’ to the petition, ‘under any and all circumstances, absolutely and emphatically, no.’ The second say, ‘We do not seek it; we do not object to it under some circumstances; with restrictions we should be willing, without restrictions, unwilling. In fact, we have not made up our minds.’ The third say, “We accept it, freely accept it, as the logical sequence of our being Masons, of our professing Masonry; for Masonry knows no race, knows all races alike.” *Address to the colored masonic fraternity of the United States being a history of the National Grand Lodge and its workings... 1871.*

Freemasonry was not merely a symbolic fellowship for African Americans but a source of relationships that had real and lasting benefits. In 1906 Grand Master Frederick S. Monroe of Massachusetts related Prince Hall’s story of a colored man whose masonic affiliation saved him and his non-masonic shipmates from being sold into slavery. “The evils which slavery made possible did not cease with its abolition, for on the 27th of February, 1788, we find Prince Hall in a memorial addressed to the senate and house of representatives of the state of Massachusetts, protesting against the kidnapping of colored men for the West Indian slave trade, a favorite way of doing this being to employ them at some work between decks, to

clap on the hatches and carry them to sea. One of these stolen colored men was a Freemason and a member of African Lodge 459. The merchant to whom he was offered for sale also belonged to the fraternity, and he made himself known as a brother of the order, with the result that he not only secured his own liberty and restoration to home and friends, but also that of his associates who were not Masons.” *The Savannah Tribune*, June 9, 1906.


Notable Black masons include Tuskegee Institute President Booker T. Washington, Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall, W.E.B. Du Bois, Duke Ellington, Medgar Evers, Paul Robeson, Nelson Mandela, the late U.S. Representative from Georgia John R. Lewis, and both Martin Luther King, Jr.’s father and grandfather. King’s own induction was planned for 1968, the year in which he was assassinated.

During his lifetime Prince Hall issued several public “charges” or exhortations to masons to cherish their past and to live up to their ideals despite adversity. The following charge was issued on June 24, 1797, in celebration of the Feast of Saint John the Baptist.

“Live and act as Masons, that you may die as Masons; let those despisers see, altho’ many of us cannot read, yet by our searches and researches into men and things, we have supplied that defect, and if they will let us we shall call ourselves a charter’d lodge, of just and lawful Masons; be always ready to give an answer to those that ask you a question; give the right hand of affection and fellowship to whom it justly belongs let their colour and complexion be what it will: let their nation be what it may, for they are your brethren, and it is your indispensable duty to do so; let them as Masons deny this, and we & the world know what to think of them be they ever so grand: for we know this was Solomon’s creed, Solomon’s creed did I say, it is the decree of the Almighty, and all Masons have learnt it: tis plain market language and plan and true facts need no apologies.”

Happy Birthday

The new Grandview system pulls Masonic Birthdays by date of initiation rather than date of raising. We are working with Grand Lodge on correcting this error (and making it possible to simply retrieve a list from the database of Master Mason Degree dates). In the meantime, for all of those raised in the month of July, the Lodge sends its warmest fraternal greetings for a very Happy Birthday!



AmazonSmile is an easy way to generate donations to a charity of your choice every time you shop on Amazon, at no additional cost to you. As a 501(c)(3) organization, the AW22 Foundation has been registered with AmazonSmile and all members are encouraged to consider this convenient way to support our Lodge.

On the Amazon app:

- Open the app and tap the main menu icon (=) in the bottom right corner.
- Click Settings and then AmazonSmile.
- Click Turn On AmazonSmile and when prompted, search for “Alexandria-Washington Lodge No 22 Foundation Inc.”

For every eligible purchase you make on the app, Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price to the AW22 Foundation. This percentage may seem small but it can accumulate quickly, especially as more Masons and families sign up to support AW22.

2022 LODGE OFFICERS

Wor. Denislav Valeriev Dantev.....	Worshipful Master
<i>Mobile: 703-649-1509 Email: Master@AW22.org</i>	
Bro. David Gabriel Bella.....	Senior Warden
Bro. Nelo Allen Hamilton, Jr.....	Junior Warden
Wor. Michael Lee Bailey, PM.....	Treasurer
Wor. Daniel Elias Froggett, PM.....	Secretary
<i>Phone: 703-549-9234 Email: Secretary@AW22.org 101 Callahan Dr., Alexandria, Va. 22301</i>	
Rt. Wor. Granville Clayton “Jack” Canard, Jr., PDDGM.....	Secretary Emeritus
Bro. Phillip Adam Smartt.....	Senior Deacon
Bro. Jonathan Joseph Siudmak.....	Junior Deacon
Bro. Abdullah Khodadad.....	Chaplain
Bro. Ronald Earl Craft, Jr.....	Senior Steward
Bro. Pascal Bussiere.....	Junior Steward
Bro. Christopher Gared Sterbling.....	Marshal
Bro. Sean Phillip O’Shea.....	Musician
Wor. Pablo Alejandro Rocha, PM.....	Tiler

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Rt. Wor. Daniel M. Clark, DDGM.....	2022
Rt. Wor. Mark W. Underwood, PDDGM.....	2023
Bro. Jeffrey W. C. Conn.....	2024
Wor. James Berkely Stone, PM.....	2025
Wor. Jesse T. McMahan, V, PM.....	2026

LIVING PAST MASTERS ON THE ROLLS

1975	Donald M. Robey, PGM	2004	Frank S. Skwirut
1976	James B. Stone	2005	Jesse T. McMahan, V
1988	William A. Jones	2006	Thomas G. Little
1991	Earl C. Million	2007	Robert G. Watkins, PDDGM
1992	Granville C. Canard, JR, PDDGM	2009	Heber C. Willis, III
1995	George D. Seghers, PDDGM	2011	John P. Olson
1996,18	Mark W. Underwood, PDDGM	2012	Michael L. Bailey
1997	Walter L. Margeson, II	2013	Joshua D. Adler
1998	Philip J. Hays	2014	Robert T. Weston
1999,17	Michael P. Bible, PDDGM	2016	Stephen J. Pezzetti
2000	Terry L. Gigure	2019	Nikola N. Nikolov
2001	Brent N. Campbell	2020	Daniel E. Froggett
2002	Daniel M. Clark, DDGM	2021	Michael T. Huff
2003	James M. Stevenson		