

MASTER'S MESSAGE

Brethren—

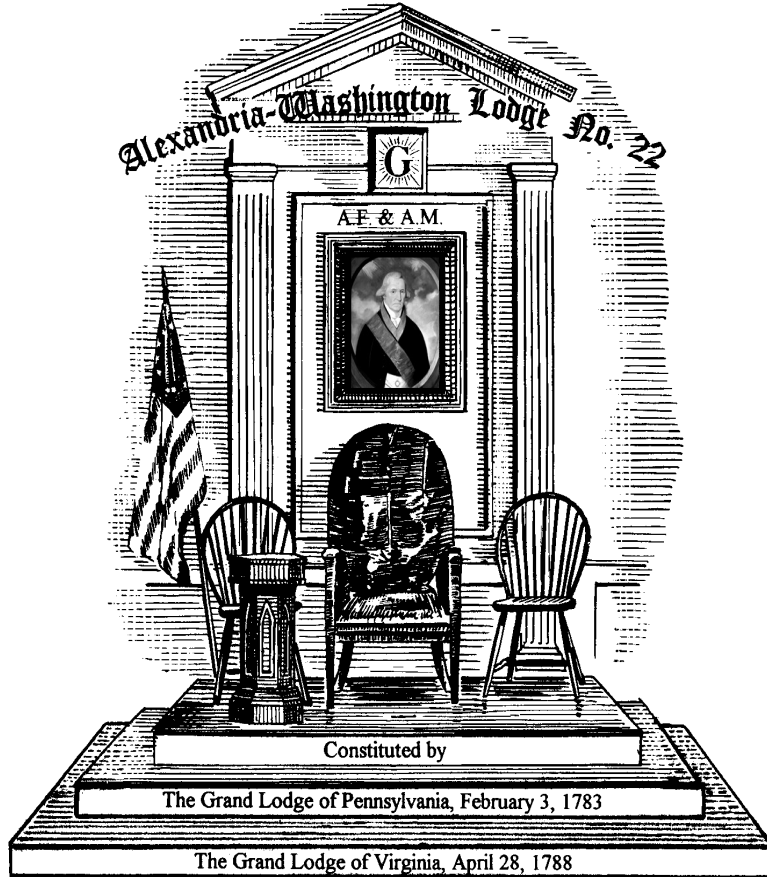
What an honor it is to serve as Worshipful Master of our Alexandria-Washington Lodge No. 22. I share the sentiment Brother Washington expressed about being elected to the Presidency in his 1789 letter to Thomas Jefferson, *"While I realize the arduous nature of the task which is conferred on me and feel my inability to perform it, I wish there may not be reason for regretting the choice. All I can promise is only that which can be accomplished by an honest zeal."* Thank you for trusting me, and I promise I will work as hard as I can to further our noble institution.

I would like to thank everyone for making 2022 a successful year, most especially Worshipful Brother Dantev. What an amazing year 2022 was. He led us back into a pre-pandemic rhythm and set the lodge up for success in 2023. When talking about our lodge, it is frequently said that it is a good time to be an AW22 mason, and Worshipful Dantev has been a key ingredient to establishing that reputation.

2023 is shaping up to be a busy year. The first two months of the year are always action packed for us, but with the one hundredth anniversary of the cornerstone looming, the next few weeks will be intense to put it mildly. Thousands of Freemasons will descend on Alexandria to celebrate our greatest member, George Washington. AW22 will be critical to the success of the celebration. The lodge will be hosting a "Welcome Communication" on the night of February 17th where we will receive the Grand Master of Virginia, raise a candidate to the sublime degree of Master Mason on the morning of the 18th, and have our annual wreath laying at Brother Washington's tomb on the 22nd followed by our "Birthday Stated" on the grounds of Mount Vernon. These three events require RSVPs through our partner app, Amity. We expect hundreds of participants at these events so please ensure you register early. The schedule can be found at aw22.org/GWMNM2023.

While the first two months of the year will be centered around the cornerstone celebration, the rest of the year will be laser focused on three lines of effort: Alexandria Institution, Lodge of Washington, Excellence in Masonry. There are fifteen goals associated with these lines of effort and we will track them at every stated. I look forward to laboring in the quarries with you to meet these goals in 2023.

Sincerely & Fraternally,
David G. Bella
Worshipful Master
Master@AW22.org
228-282-0906



LODGE BULLETIN

JANUARY 2023

www.AW22.org

OFFICER INSTALLATION

The officers of Alexandria-Washington Lodge No. 22 were installed on Saint John the Evangelist Day in the AW22 lodge room. The installing team consisted of:

- ∴ Right Worshipful Jeffrey Mark Hayes, *Installing Officer*
- ∴ Right Worshipful Michael Jean King, *Installing Marshal*
- ∴ Brother Craig Bogle, *Installing Secretary*
- ∴ Right Worshipful Michael Paul Bible, *Installing Chaplain*

The installing team did a wonderful job and our guests enjoyed a reception catered by The Charcuterie Queens, a local business started by two enterprising high school students in 2022. Thank you to everyone that came out and supported us.

The official officer photo for 2023 was uniquely staged in the portico of the Memorial to simulate one of my favorite characteristics of our wonderful memorial. On early winter mornings when the main doors are open, the illuminated Bryant Baker statue of George Washington can be seen from King Street on my commutes to Fort Belvoir.



2023 GUIDING LIGHT

Sitting in the East at Alexandria-Washington Lodge No. 22 is an enormous responsibility. With this responsibility, I believe that it is incumbent upon the Worshipful Master to use his position to make a difference in our local community, our lodge, and the craft. With this in mind, I'd like to lay out my vision for where we are headed in this masonic year by explaining the mantra that you will hear repeated throughout the year, "Alexandria Institution, Lodge of Washington, Excellence in Masonry".

Alexandria Institution

We have a duty to serve our community: it is in our name. Alexandria-Washington Lodge No. 22 was the first lodge in Alexandria and we have been serving the Alexandria community since our founding in 1783. We will be placing an emphasis on volunteering our time and money in local charities, welcoming the men of Alexandria into the mysteries of Freemasonry, and ensuring that our community knows us as a positive force for good.

Lodge of Washington

We are the Lodge of Washington. We must embrace his legacy, learn from his life, and educate the world about it. We will place a special emphasis on his legacy by educating, exploring, and promoting his lasting impact on our community and craft.

Excellence in Masonry

There is no escaping the fact that the aforementioned lines of effort, when combined, sum to a Lodge that has a responsibility to be a leader in the masonic community. I have seen in the past several years that this lodge is becoming a truly unique organization: well run, financially solvent, strategically minded, energetic, and growing. I want to continue this success by pushing the lodge to reach its full potential. I believe that we should strive for excellence in everything we do.

Thank you for accompanying me on this journey. I am looking forward to seeing what we can accomplish together. ∴ *David*

LINES OF EFFORT

Alexandria Institution

- ☐ Host quarterly tours of AW22 and its archives that are open to the public
- ☐ Participate in ten charity events in the community
- ☐ Submit a report detailing how membership can be more accessible to the members of our community at the September stated

Lodge of Washington

- ☐ Double the AW22 Foundation endowment in the name of restoring and preserving the William Williams portrait
- ☐ Have our archivist give a small presentation on a piece of the archives before each stated
- ☐ Reimburse members for tours of the GWMNM
- ☐ Have the Master, Wardens and Deacons each give a presentation on George Washington in front of a masonic body
- ☐ Publish three articles or papers on Washington by members of AW22

Excellence in Masonry

- ☐ Win the Hillman Award
- ☐ Record a fraternal visit to every lodge in the district
- ☐ Create a new, robust membership program that focuses on educating, involving, and mentoring our members
- ☐ Spread the word of AW22 and the GWMNM by visiting three other masonic architectural wonders
- ☐ Have one member attain their silver or gold card, and have two lecturers for each degree
- ☐ Have the most new appendant body members initiated in our district
- ☐ Have a net gain in membership



JANUARY 2023

January 5

No Catechism or Ritual School
1900 Officers Meeting

January 10

1930 Fraternal Visit
Henry Knox-Field John Blair Lodge No. 349

January 12

1830 Dinner

1930 Meeting

Stated Communication: History of the GWMNM

January 24

1930 Masters and Wardens Association
Concord Lodge No. 307

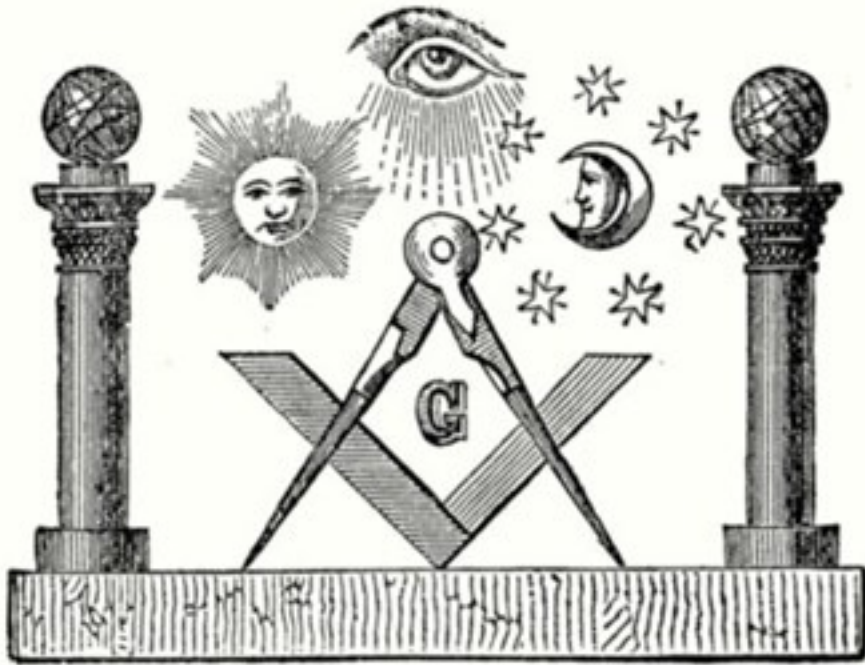
January 26

1930 Fellowcraft Lodge

January 29

1400 Board of Trustees Meeting (Virtual)
1530 Archives Committee Meeting

- ∴ Catechism Schools are every Thursday night at 1830 and Saturday morning at 1000 unless otherwise noted. Officer Ritual Schools are every Thursday night at 1930 unless otherwise noted. All masons are welcome.*
- ∴ To follow the Master's personal masonic schedule, please join our lodge Discord server.*



BILL OF FARE

JANUARY 12, 2023

COFFEE RUBBED STEAK

GARLIC ROASTED CHICKEN

ROASTED POTATOES

CAESAR SALAD

Suggested Donation \$10.00

Please RSVP to Reservations@AW22.org

ALBUM OF THE MONTH

IN THE MOUNTAIN IN THE CLOUD, 2011
PORTUGAL. THE MAN.



This year we will have an Album of the Month featured in each bulletin. These albums have been handpicked to reflect my personality, serve as an invigorating exploration into one of the seven liberal arts we are exposed to in the Fellowcraft degree, and is a unique way for future generations to explore our era. Also, I think this is just a fun way to share one of my passions. Listen to each album on your way to lodge and enjoy unique perspectives on this artform.

∴ David

There is a fear of winter that is so ancient and universal that it pre-dates mankind itself. This is the time when the day must battle against the imperious dominion of night; when life hides itself away in the warrens and burrows and caves and deep, black waters that offer refuge from the killing frosts; when elders tell tales of starving Wendigos, which prowl amongst the naked trees in search of manflesh, and we know deep down that every word the elders tell is truth. This is the time when foolhardy men, self-assured in their invincibility, venture out into the bleak snowscape— for roots or for beer, it doesn't matter—and are left gibbering and naked as Winter's palm encloses them in the false warmth of her grasp. This is the time when the ground freezes and the dead are left unburied until the spring thaw. It is the time when the air itself hangs motionless around us, either in reverence or in stark horror of the calamity that the killing time, the dying time, brings to the land and waters. Winter is the suspension of life; the cessation of movement; the time ordained by God neither for reaping nor sowing, but for surviving on the fruits of the labors

ALBUM OF THE MONTH

*IN THE MOUNTAIN IN THE CLOUD, 2011
PORTUGAL. THE MAN.*

one has produced the rest of the year-round. In a sense, winter can itself be viewed as a force of justice—or of retribution, as it may be. Winter is the midnight that belongs neither to the day that preceded it, nor to the day that follows it.

But, just as the hands on a clock inevitably sweep past midnight, and the children who held their breath during this suspicious, even cursed, period exhale giddily once they are safe from the witches and devils that lurk inside that long minute, so too does winter subside—its Angel-of-Death hands bound once more by the forces of nature and the might of the coming springtide, which visits a renaissance upon the barren wasteland winter has manufactured.

In this way, winter plays a role—a stock character—in the cosmic kabuki of our universe. It is that season which completes the cycle of our year, just as midnight is the hour that completes the cycle of our day, and just as the Angel of Death completes the cycle of our lives. It is the last stage of the karmic wheel, where we are forced to put down the tools of our trades—be they swords, or scythes, or pens—and be judged accountable for the consequences we have wrought through the actions of our lives.



The album *In the Mountain, in the Cloud* by Portugal, the Man is an ode to the resurrection that winter portends—a psychedelic, aural fantasia refracting the glory of spring through the white diamond of winter and tinted in the blood spilled through mutual misunderstanding. Though it sonically evokes David Bowie, the lyrics themselves are of the wistful, probing sort as found on Neil Young's *After the Gold Rush*, where the fulfillment of animal necessity has left an absence of purpose (see, from ITMITC: "Got It All (This Can't Be Living Now)"). The title of the album lends itself to the universality and interconnectedness of these cycles, be they expressed earthly (the mountain) or ethereally (the cloud).

There is a concept in eastern religions called samsara that encapsulates the endless repetition of birth, growth, decline, and death experienced in micro-and macrocosm on every observable level of the universe. To some, this ouroboros is interpreted as proof of the meaningless of intentionality and effort, and of life itself. To Portugal, the Man, it is the inextinguishable promise that, just as the dawn destroys the night, the spring will—not may, but will—defeat the winter. More than that, the album poises the concepts represented by winter and spring not as enemies destined to battle one another, but rather as ideological phrases which resolve one another harmoniously.

Take, for example, the first song on the record, "So American," which speaks of a Christ with a "mission and a gun to paint rainbows in Vietnam." Here is expressed a corruption of the necessarily symbiotic rela-

tionship between winter and spring—a misdirected would-be savior enacting violence against the soul of the world under the delusion of manifesting peace. It speaks to the nefarious manipulation of man's purpose and nature's function by those who would seek to use them to further their own selfish goals (also expressed in "Head is a Flame (Cool with It)"). This manipulation disrupts the harmony of winter and spring and leaves them in discord. In this instance, winter, the role of which is to claim the frail and the unprepared, has been weaponized for imperial gain, creating conflict with the function of spring, which is to give rise to new hope and replenish the fruit of the earth. The natural function of these seasons may be best exemplified by Jesus Christ Himself, who sacrificed Himself yet was resurrected anew, giving hope and salvation to the world. Thus, we see midnight ticking over to a new day; thus, we see winter turn into spring. The corruption of the Christ in this song is a literary device to exemplify how human beings have disturbed the harmony of nature through war, avarice, and blind allegiance to those perennially out of sync with the divine truth of the universe. The imposition of this cosmic perversion inevitably leads to the despondency and hopelessness expressed in the album's "Sleep Forever," which occupies the final slot in the track listing and in which the narrator has rejected his position in nature and wishes to be omitted from the universe in its entirety for the evils that have been falsely presented to him as truths.

Later, in that same song, the perspective changes from Jesus Himself to one learning from "the one they call Jesus Christ" (it is important to note that every time this name is brought up, it is context of "the one they call Jesus Christ," which may itself point to the insincerity of the moniker), who insists that "He was born of all the mothers and the colors of our brothers." This harkens to the universality of human nature, human experience, and, therefore, the cycle in which we all play a part.



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.

HAPPY MASONIC BIRTHDAY

Bro. Billy Gene Blazer Jan. 6, 57 years
 Bro. Konstantin Victorovich Boyko Jan 4., 5 years
 Rt. Wor. John Arthur Bridegroom Jan. 13, 19 years
 Rt. Wor. Daniel Martin Clark Jan. 18, 43 years
 Bro. David Brainard Crist Jan. 22, 22 years
 Mt. Wor. William Edward Hershey Jan. 30, 47 years
 Wor. Michael Thomas Huff Jan. 24, 11 years
 Rt. Wor. Michael Jean King Jan. 30, 47 years
 Bro. Thomas Jefferson Penn Jan. 12, 35 years
 Bro. Dimitar Plamenov Petrov Jan. 16, 13 years
 Mt. Wor. Donald Maynard Robey Jan. 29, 55 years
 Bro. Jonathan Solomon Ruskin Jan. 3, 49 years
 Bro. Matthew Dean Russell Jan. 16, 13 years
 Bro. John Stephen Ryan Jan. 15, 37 years
 Bro. Michael Sivy Jan. 21, 13 years
 Wor. James McHenry Stevenson Jan. 12, 25 years
 Wor. James Berkley Stone Jan. 30, 56 years
 Bro. Mete Yilmaz Jan. 27, 31 years
 Bro. Matthew Charles Ziegler Jan. 24, 11 years

2023 LODGE OFFICERS

Wor. David Gabriel Bella.....Worshipful Master
Mobile: 228-282-0906 Email: Master@AW22.org
 Bro. Nelo Allen Hamilton, Jr.....Senior Warden
 Bro. Phillip Adam Smartt.....Junior Warden
 Wor. Michael Lee Bailey, PM.....Treasurer
 Wor. Daniel Elias Froggett, PM.....Secretary
Phone: 703-549-9234 Email: Secretary@AW22.org 101 Callahan Dr., Alexandria, Va. 22301
 Rt. Wor. Granville Clayton "Jack" Canard, Jr., PDDGM.....Secretary Emeritus
 Bro. Jonathan Joseph Siudmak.....Senior Deacon
 Bro. Ronald Earl Craft, Jr.....Junior Deacon
 Wor. Denislav Valeriev Dantev, PM.....Chaplain
 Bro. Christopher Gared Sterbling.....Senior Steward
 Bro. Robert Andrew Tennis.....Junior Steward
 Bro. James Henry Ferguson.....Marshal
 Wor. Pablo Alejandro Rocha, PM.....Tiler

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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
 Wor. Nik N. Nikolav, PM.....2027

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	2022	Denislav V. Dantev