

MASTER'S MESSAGE

Brethren—

What a start to the year! I hope the energy I felt at the January stated is a harbinger of things to come. Perhaps it was a mix of nerves and adrenaline, but I truly felt that there was a special energy coursing through the room at our first stated of 2023. Attendance was strong, the educational program was spectacular, and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. I don't think I was the only one who felt this energy— at least three first time visitors requested petitions for affiliation. I have pushed the officers to keep up the momentum to sustain that energy, because we will definitely need it in February.

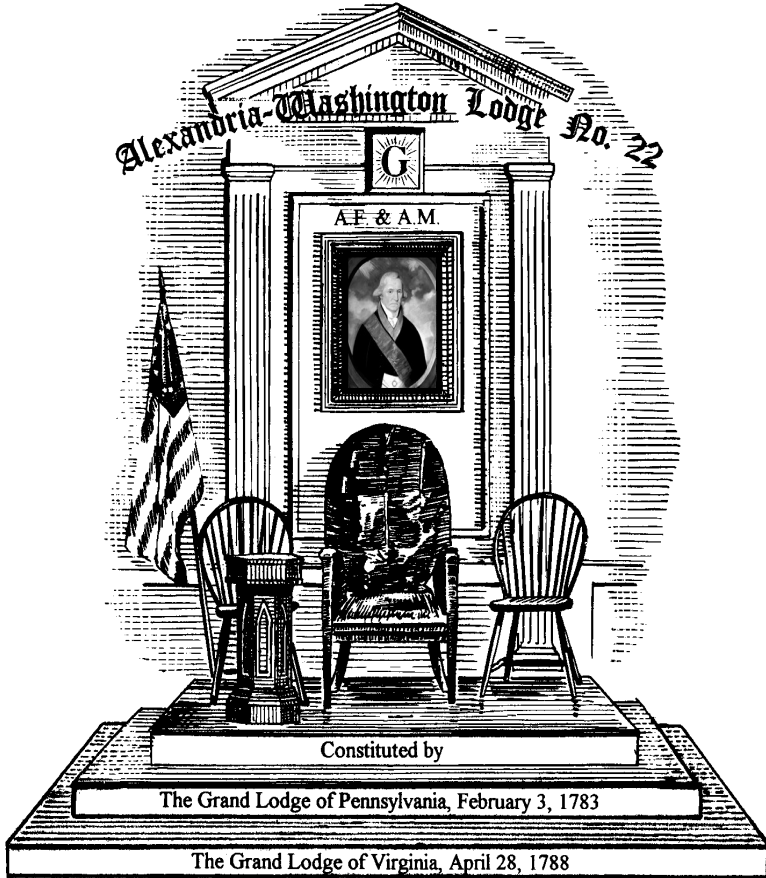
At our stated communication on the ninth we will receive Right Worshipful Jeffrey Mark Hayes, District Deputy Grand Master for Masonic District 1A. He is a difference maker and has taken an interest in supporting every lodge in our district. R.W. Hayes is an outstanding mason and someone I admire greatly. After meeting him on the ninth, I bet you will draw a similar conclusion. Please come out and learn about what he is doing to improve our craft.

Eight days later, on the seventeenth, the one hundredth anniversary celebration of the cornerstone laying ceremony of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial begins. This five day stretch has been thought about for years and it is finally upon us. Luckily, a team of dedicated brothers has meticulously planned every detail of the February cornerstone rededication festivities to ensure we are primed for success. Hundreds of people have assisted in this effort representing countless organizations, but three in particular deserve special recognition. The Grand Lodge of Virginia Host Committee, the GWMNMA, and the George Washington Birthday Parade Committee have all been led by brothers of our lodge and I thank them for their tremendous efforts.

What role does our lodge play in these festivities? The answer is very simple: masonry. Our duty is to welcome the brothers from all over the country and show them what our lodge is all about: being a community institution, honoring our most distinguished brother, and excelling in masonic work.

The next few pages in the bulletin give specific details on our events, please become familiar with them. This will be a once in a generation event and I hope you participate, help out, and have fun. It truly is a wonderful time to be a mason at Alexandria-Washington Lodge No. 22.

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



LODGE BULLETIN

FEBRUARY 2023

www.AW22.org

FEBRUARY FESTIVITIES

February 17th

Welcome Communication Reception 18:30

- ∴ Mix and mingle in Memorial Hall with brethren from all over the country.
- ∴ Heavy hors d'oeuvres served in Memorial Hall.
- ∴ The Archives Committee will be hosting informal tours of the Replica Lodge Room and AW22 lodge room.

Welcome Communication 19:30*

- ∴ The lodge will start off the weekend's festivities by receiving Most Worshipful Strehle in the Memorial Theater.
- ∴ Sitting Grand Masters are invited to join Most Worshipful Strehle on the stage in the East.

February 18th

Master Mason Degree 10:00*

- ∴ The lodge will demonstrate Virginia's ritual by raising a brother to the sublime degree of Master Mason in the AW22 lodge room.
- ∴ The cast will be made up of AW22 officers, two District Instructors of Work, the District Deputy Grand Master, and the sitting Worshipful Masters of Masonic District 1A

February 19th

Wreath Laying at M.W. Callahan's Grave 12:00

- ∴ Celebrate the life of Most Worshipful Charles Hilliard Callahan, AW22 Past Master and the man who single-handedly willed the Memorial into existence.
- ∴ Assemble at Alexandria National Cemetery.

AW22 Foundation Dinner 18:00

- ∴ The Foundation is raising money to preserve our archives. \$200/ticket at the Crystal Gateway Marriot. Bring a date and enjoy this black tie affair. See page 6.

FEBRUARY FESTIVITIES

February 20th

G.W. Birthday Parade 11:00

- ∴ Process with the lodge to the Memorial.

GWMNM Cornerstone Re-Enactment Ceremony 15:00

- ∴ Led by the M.W. Grand Lodge of Virginia.

February 22nd

Wreath Laying at Mount Vernon 08:00

- ∴ AW22's annual pilgrimage to honor our namesake.

Stated Communication at Mount Vernon 09:00*

- ∴ After the wreath laying, we will walk to the Smith Auditorium to open a Master Masons lodge and hear from our distinguished guest, Brother James Gilmore.

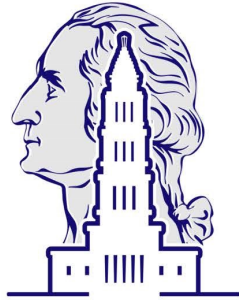
**Space is limited at these events. Please secure your spot by registering for these events through our partner app, Amity.*

"Resolved, first, that we approve and endorse the proposed erection of a Masonic Temple as a memorial to George Washington, under the auspices of Alexandria-Washington Lodge, No. 22 A. F. & A. M., of Alexandria, Virginia." - The first lines of the founding document of The Washington Masonic Memorial Association, February 22, 1911

Brethren, this is an opportunity to continue our storied tradition of being the heart and soul of our beloved home. Join us as your cable tow permits. March in the parade. Reach out to the Senior Warden to see how you can volunteer during the events. Show up. Make memories, and enjoy this once in a lifetime event.

∴ David

FOUNDATION GALA



THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
Alexandria - Washington Lodge, No. 22
Foundation Inc.

REQUEST THE PLEASURE OF YOUR COMPANY AT A

George Washington Birthday Dinner

WITH A KEYNOTE ADDRESS FROM THE

Honorable James Stuart Gilmore III

SIX O'CLOCK IN THE EVENING
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2023
CRYSTAL GATEWAY MARRIOTT
SALONS 5 & 6
1700 RICHMOND HIGHWAY
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA

\$200 PER PERSON, PURCHASE ONLINE:
[HTTPS://AW22.ORG/AW-22-FOUNDATION/](https://aw22.org/aw-22-foundation/)

BLACK TIE



FEBRUARY 2023

Lodge Activities

February 9
18:30 Dinner
19:30 Meeting
Stated Communication:
Receiving R.W. Hayes

February 11
09:30 Division Leadership
Conference
Alexandria Scottish Rite

February 14
Valentines Day

Cornerstone Activities

February 17
18:30 Reception
19:30 Welcome Stated:
Receiving M.W. Strehle

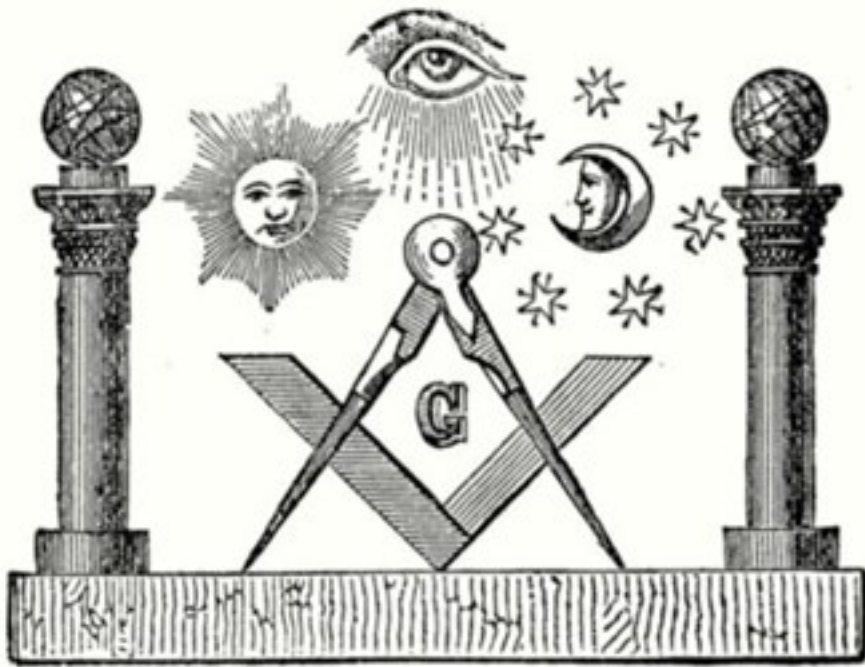
February 18
10:00 Master Mason Degree

February 19
12:00 Wreath Laying at M.W.
Callahan's Grave
18:00 AW22 Foundation Dinner

February 20
13:00 GW Birthday Parade
15:00 Cornerstone Re-
Dedication

February 22
08:00 Wreath Laying at Brother
Washington's Tomb
09:00 Birthday Communication
at Mount Vernon

- ∴ 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

FEBRUARY 9, 2023

BBQ BRISKET & CHICKEN

COLE SLAW

POTATO SALAD

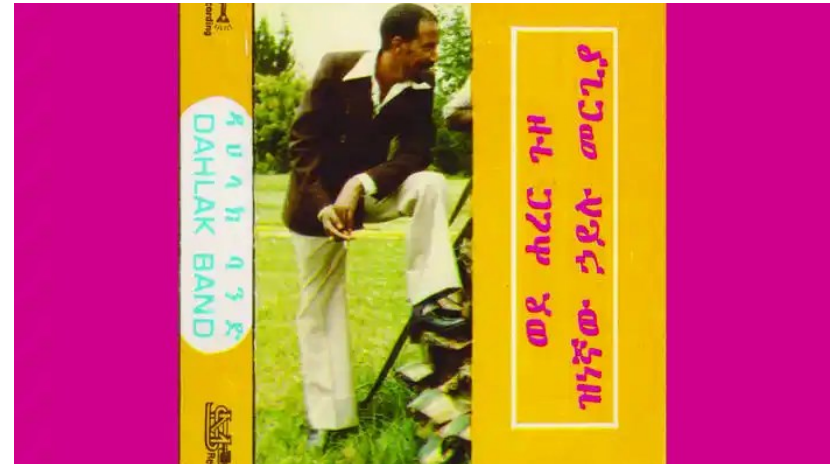
MAC & CHEESE

Suggested Donation \$10.00

Please RSVP to Reservations@AW22.org

ALBUM OF THE MONTH

WEDE HARER GUZO 1978
HAILU MERGIA AND THE DAHLAK BAND



The largest population of Ethiopians outside of Africa can be found right here in the Washington D.C. region. Being exposed to the Ethiopian diaspora has made me fall in love with Ethiopian food, people, and music. The groove of this album was unlike anything I had ever heard when I first listened to the album.

∴ David

The year was 1974. 85% of Ethiopians were living hand-to-mouth. 93% of the land was owned by the church, the emperor, and his vassals. 75% of the produce of the people's labor went to these entities.

Student protests had erupted against Emperor Haile Selassie in the mid-sixties, but had been suppressed. Now, in the sprawling capital city of Addis Ababa— ballooned by unbridled population growth, beleaguered by famine and economic downturn, and chafing against the antique chains of feudalism— the people were ready for revolt.

Like all revolutions, it was borne of idealism.

Like all revolutions, it would fall short of achieving the extent of its utopian vision.

The military coup that would precipitate this revolt was preceded, though, by a revolution of a different kind.

It has been a long-established principle that one of the first targets for elimination under a totalitarian regime is the freedom of expression, and the Ethiopian autocracy provided no exception. The emperor had, in 1948, issued an edict: that all recordings and pressings were to be approved through state-sanctioned channels, in order to censor rhetoric and ideolo-

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gies which might be subversive to the medieval (in every sense of the word) status quo.

Through these restrictions, however, Haile Selassie only succeeded in galvanizing the people against him. Soon, a lustrous black market sprang up, and foreign (largely American) records began to be smuggled into the country and traded person-to-person—a sort of island-hopping campaign of white hot rebellion in the form of music. If Marx said that religion is the opiate of the masses, this music was the Dexedrine. Soon, a veritable pharmacopeia of funk, jazz, rhythm and blues, rock ‘n’ roll, and other undesirable influences had pervaded Ethiopia. The people of Addis Ababa were the biggest junkies of all, and by the early ‘60s, the Ethiopian Golden Age of Music had seized the citizenry of the capital in a way that no tyrannical government ever could. Inspired by the records they secreted, and, standing on the shoulders of those taboo giants who dealt in the musical narcotics they craved, the players of Ethiopia became purveyors of their own brand of dope—a sound which fused American genres with traditional Ethiopian styles, and which sophisticated the machinery of both forms into a battle rifle of the people.

It is at this crossroads of creative spirit and governmental oppression that the Walias Band, with keyboardist and composer Hailu Mergia, rose to prominence. In the smoke and din of the clubs of Addis Ababa, this group worked Ethiopian standards on an anvil of improvisation and foreign influence, hammering traditional compositions into unrecognizable anthems of defiance. Hailu’s oxymoronic fusions of familiarity and novelty became emblematic of the new way of life that the general population envisioned for themselves and their countrymen, in which fresh opportunity did not come at the sacrifice of their national identity. To paraphrase Bob Dylan: there was music in the cafés at night, and that music became one with the revolution in the air.

It was to Hailu Mergia’s music and to the demand of “land to the tiller” that the emperor was ousted and later assassinated, and a Marxist-Leninist junta called the Derg (ceremonially renamed the “Provisional Military Administrative Council” upon seizing power) replaced the feudal government which had dominated the people and was established as the ruling party. For the first time in living memory, Ethiopians held, with trembling fingers, a fragile hope for the future.

This hope was stillborn. Within three short years of coming to power, the P.M.A.C. had begun systematically executing dissidents and challengers to their supremacy. This period, known as the Red Terror, also saw a public curfew enacted in Addis Ababa from 12:00 – 6:00 A.M., and further regulation of the music industry. Ironically, the music which had helped

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bring about the revolution was now hobbled by the regime it had installed, and the Ethiopian Golden Age of Music suffered an ignominious demise. In response, Hailu began creating instrumental tracks so as to not incite the wrath of the lunatic powers that be. As Hailu recalls: “When you sing or write lyrics, you have to support the government, and if you don’t do that then you have a problem.” Playing with the Dahlak Band at the Ghion Hotel, Hailu became a central figure of six-hour, jam session-style concerts, which were scheduled to coincide with the new curfews and intended as a soothing balm for the betrayed visionaries of Addis Ababa.

The album *Wede Harer Guzo* by Hailu Mergia comes from this post-promise period. Released in 1978, it was recorded live in concert at the Ghion. Central to the album’s sound are strident keyboard solos, screaming horns, hypnotic chanting, and rocksteady basslines over which a nomadic guitar sometimes wanders. Despite the circumstances surrounding its recording, this album is not an expression of despair—rather, it is one of indomitable joy, albeit mixed with a blue tinge of rumination. *Wede* is ten tracks of pure Ethiopian resilience, which, though hard-earned, is as irrepressible as Hailu’s organ on the album’s title track (“*Wede Harer Guzo*”).

That track in particular showcases best the overall mood and tone of the album. At once a requiem for the past and an exultation of the future, the rhythm section on this song is mournful and dirge-like, upon which is overlaid Hailu’s felicitous, songbird instrumentation on the keys. The effect is like a rainbow in a thunderstorm. It’s a tribute to the graveyard of dreams that the Ethiopian people had left behind in the wake of the revolution, but also a declaration of perseverance for the day when those dreams are resurrected. Here, in this graveyard, death is temporary, and Hailu’s improvised solo cries, “come forth.” The song leaves the listener on a note which drives heavenward and creates in its wake a blissful acceptance of whatever adversities in our lives that may be left unresolved.

Hailu Mergia defected from Ethiopia in 1981 while on tour in the United States. He moved to Washington, D.C., first opening a restaurant, then becoming a taxi driver based around Dulles International Airport for nearly three decades. All the while, Hailu kept his keyboard in his trunk and practiced between fares. After *Wede Harer Guzo* was rediscovered in 2016 and popularized in the U.S., he reentered the music industry and has subsequently released two new albums—free at last from censorship or persecution. The Ethiopian music industry, too, has seen a revitalization since the collapse of the P.M.A.C. It is proof positive of the legitimacy of Hailu’s album and of the Ethiopian ethos which it celebrates: that the hope which springs eternal in the human breast— even if long-delayed in its realization— proves itself inexorable in the end.

HAPPY MASONIC BIRTHDAY

- Bro. Edward Kenneth Arndt Feb. 19, 72 years
- Bro. Franklin Jay Pepper Feb. 24, 63 years
- Rt. Wor. Sheldon Barnett Richman Feb. 15, 55 years
- Bro. Carlus Wayne Breland Feb. 2, 53 years
- Bro. Chadwick Rene Gore Feb. 25, 38 years
- Wor. Walter Leverne Margeson II Feb. 3, 31 years
- Bro. Robert Frank Feldman III Feb, 14, 23 years
- Bro. Michael Franklin Salva Feb. 13, 22 years
- Bro. Peter George Lincoln Cutler Feb. 19, 21 years
- Bro. Brendan Malcolm Burns Feb. 3, 20 years
- Bro. Thomas Walter Meissgeier Feb. 3, 20 years
- Bro. Oliver Olrog Harris Feb. 24, 19 years
- Rt. Wor. David Benjamin Browning Jr. Feb. 8, 18 years
- Wor. Stephen Joseph Pezzetti Feb. 3, 12 years
- Bro. Chris Besmir Ruli Feb. 1, 7 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

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- 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, PDDGM	2021	Michael T. Huff
2003	James M. Stevenson	2022	Denislav V. Dantev



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- 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.