

LODGE BULLETIN

MAY 2023

www.AW22.ORG

MASTER'S MESSAGE

Brethren—

Last month it was revealed that a low-level airman released incredibly sensitive documents to a large group message he moderated. In addition to harming our nation's security, this leak damaged our nation's credibility and image abroad.

Hearing the news and listening to the fallout, I was reminded of how interconnected we all are. How can an unknown airman in Cape Cod create such a stir that the President of the United States must comment on his actions? We are all connected. And that is why it is so important to hew your ashlar as often and precisely as possible. Please place a special emphasis this month to understand how to better yourself, and by extension our institutions and community. Your success in fulfilling your Masonic obligation impacts everyone in our Lodge.

Epictetus once asked, "How long are you going to wait before you demand the best of yourself?" I challenge you to make it today because our community needs upright Masons more than ever.

The month of April was filled with many memories for me. Hosting the Grand Lodge of Washington, raising nine Brothers to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason, hosting the Masonic Home of Virginia and many others. Looking forward to the warmer months ahead, I see many more memories to be made on the horizon.

Our speaker at the stated is Dr. Josiah Osgood, Chair and Professor of Classics at Georgetown University. He is a historian of Rome who researches the fall of the Roman Republic and the Roman Empire. His latest book is *Uncommon Wrath: How Caesar and Cato's Deadly Rivalry Destroyed the Roman Republic*. He will be speaking to us about stoic leadership in ancient Rome.

We have a fraternal visit to Andrew Jackson Lodge on the 18th, the William Hiram Wood school on the 20th, and our annual Friends and Family Cookout on the 27th. I hope you join us at the beginning of June when we go up to visit our sister Lodge, William L. Elkins in Philadelphia. Please reach out to me for more details and to reserve your spot.

I am looking forward to seeing you in Lodge and in the quarries in May.

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





MAY 2023

May 11th

18:30 Dinner

19:30 Stated Communication:

Josiah Osgood, PhD

Stoic Leadership

May 20th

08:00 William Hiram Wood

Ritual School

Location TBD

May 13th

12:00 Entered Apprentice &
Fellowcraft Lodge

May 27th

11:00 Friends & Family

Cookout/Picnic

GWMNM

May 18th

18:30 Dinner

19:30 Fraternal Visit

Andrew Jackson, No. 120

June 1st-3rd

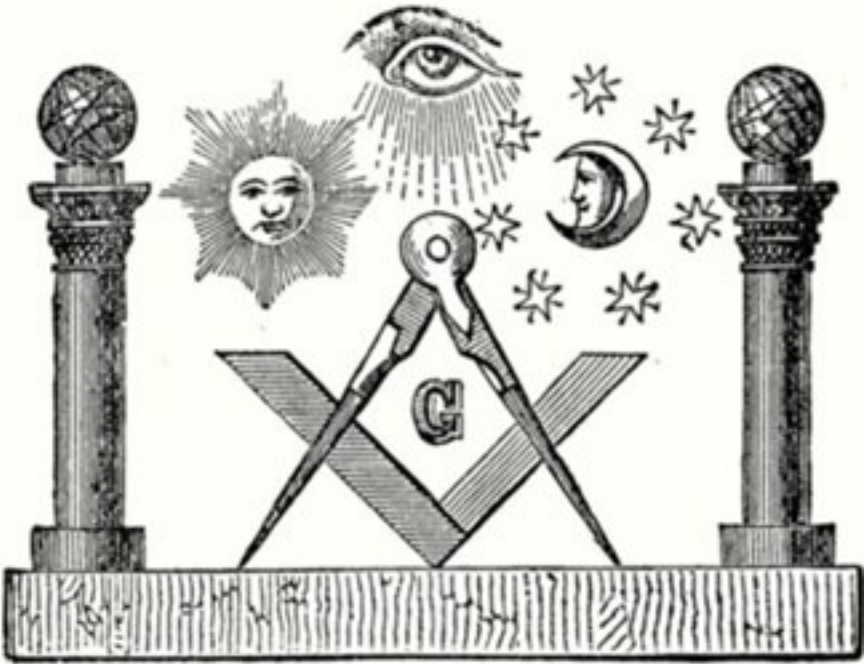
Fraternal Visit to William L.

Elkins Lodge & the Grand

Lodge of PA

See page 5 for details

- ∴ Catechism Schools are every Thursday night at 18:30 and Saturday morning at 10:00 unless otherwise noted. Officer Ritual Schools are every Thursday night at 19:30 unless otherwise noted. All Masons are welcome.*
- ∴ To follow the Master's personal Masonic schedule, please view the Master@AW22.org shared Google Calendar.*



BILL OF FARE

MAY 11TH, 2023

CHICKEN TINGA STREET TACOS

BIRRIA DE RES STREET TACOS

STREET CORN

CHIPS AND SALSA

Suggested Donation \$10.00

Please RSVP to Reservations@AW22.org

FRATERNAL VISITS

Visiting other Lodges is one of the best things about being a Freemason. Seeing different cultures, meeting new friends, seeing old ones, and learning from others are part of what makes our Craft so great.

In the coming weeks, AW22 will visit two Lodges that hold a special place in our hearts. On the eighteenth, we will go right across the hall to Andrew Jackson Lodge No. 120. On June first, we will travel to Philadelphia and visit William L. Elkins Lodge No. 271. Our Lodge has had fraternal relationships with both Lodges since the 1800s.

We will travel to Philadelphia on the afternoon of the first and will attend William L. Elkins' meeting at 7PM. The next day we will do a tour of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania and enjoy the city. We will travel back on Saturday. Please reach out to the Master to reserve your spot.



EA TRACING BOARD

ROBERT SWANSON AW22, 2023

The genesis of the Tracing Board is at the heart of Freemasonry's humble beginnings. Before our structures and places of meeting became more permanent, lodges would meet in Taverns and other public places.

*"so it was the practice to draw the lodge on the floor, that is, to mark it off on the floor with chalk or charcoal showing the various stations, representation of furniture, and symbols necessary to illustrate the lecture."*¹

The symbolic drawings which once were drawn every meeting to "create" the lodge became works of art that evolved into the "Floor-Cloth"² and then later became "Tracing Boards."

What is a Tracing Board? According to Mackey a Tracing Board, otherwise known as Floor-Cloth is:

*"A framework of board or canvas on which the emblems of any particular Degree are inscribed, for the assistance of the Master in giving a lecture. It is so called because formerly it was the custom to inscribe these designs on the floor of the Lodge-room in chalk, which were wiped out when the Lodge was closed. It is the same as the Carpet or Tracing-Board"*³

Brother Dimitar Gueorguiev Mavrov was commissioned in 2008 by the Brothers of AW-22 for the production of 3 Tracing boards, in accordance to traditions and customs of our Craft. In total the creation of these beautiful works of art by Brother Dimitar Petrov took 9 months. However, in 2022 all three of the Tracing Boards were given improvements, and/or redesigns including additional "Masonic Symbols, Virtues and Knowledge."⁴

*"This tracing board is designed with the idea to ignite spiritual seekers in their quest for Knowledge and Light. The young apprentice will learn the symbols of the First Degree, building the foundation for further improvement. The Four Cardinal Virtues, the mysterious Ladder of Jacob, the lights and furniture of the Lodge, the Holy Saints John, and various tenets are shown."*⁵

EA TRACING BOARD

ROBERT SWANSON AW22, 2023

What can be seen on our Entered Apprentice Tracing Board? Brother Dimitar is kind enough to list them for us.

- ∴ The Ornaments of the Lodge;⁶
 - ∴ The Symbols of the Dedication of the Masonic Lodge
 - ∴ The Temple of King Solomon
 - ∴ The three vast pillars - Wisdom, Strength and Beauty - through Support of the Lodge
 - ∴ The mysterious Ladder of Jacob, extended from Earth to Heaven, helping us for better understanding of the necessity of Faith, Hope and Charity in our life
 - ∴ The symbolical presentation of the Chalk, Charcoal and Clay
 - ∴ The Lights of the Lodge
 - ∴ The Furniture of the Lodge - the Holy Bible, Square, and the Compasses
 - ∴ The Tenets of the Institution - the Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth

1. Coil's *Masonic Encyclopedia*, page 119

2. Mackey's *Revised Encyclopedia of Freemasonry Volume 2*, page 1045

3. Mackey's *Revised Encyclopedia of Freemasonry Volume 1*, page 359

4. Mavrov-Tracing Boards

5-7. IBID



ALBUM OF THE MONTH

SAFE AS MILK 1967
CAPTAIN BEEFHEART



If Dali and Muddy Waters made an album, it would sound like Safe as Milk.

∴ David

There are musical groups in this world that are the scorn and bane of parents everywhere; which leave mothers wringing their aprons and fathers pulling at their collars — accursed celebrators of The Bad Noise, which, when coupled with The Bad Words that these bands feature as lyrics, place them in the realm of witches and Satan himself as far as a lot of parents are concerned. Every year, the new and improved Downfall of Civilization is debuted: “Robert Johnson sold his soul to the devil;” “Billie Holiday is subverting the racial hierarchy;” “Elvis is seducing our daughters;” “The Beatles think they’re more important than Jesus.” These are the ones who, like body-snatchers, will steal your All-American boy and replace him with a reprobate. These are the ones who are responsible for the violence in our schools and the shiftlessness of our population and the glow of flames we can see getting brighter in our downtowns. These are the Acts Moms Don’t Like, and all of them share one essential trait: they challenged a status-quo and evoked a defensive reaction from traditionalists.

Captain Beefheart and His Magic Band would certainly fall into this category if they were not pre-exempted by their inclusion in another: Acts Folks Don’t Understand.

Captain Beefheart was born Don Vliet — an event Vliet claimed to remember as an adult. As a child, he was recognized as a child prodigy in sculpting, but was discouraged by his parents from artistic endeavors. In retort, Vliet (later changed to Don Van Vliet for artistic pomp) picked up painting, too. It was in his teen years at Lancaster High School that Van Vliet devel-

ALBUM OF THE MONTH

oped parallel loves for the arts of avant-garde jazz and Mississippi Blues, in part propelled by his friendship with classmate/future composer extraordinaire Frank Zappa, who shared these interests with Don. Together, they made some of their first recordings, like “Lost in a Whirlpool”: a prototypical example of Beefheart’s vocal power and range as well as his cracked, absurdist approach to delivery and lyricism, which here makes even traditional blues structures seem, somehow, iconoclastic.

By 1964, Van Vliet (now officially known as “Captain Beefheart”) had assembled a group of “desert musicians” he called his “Magic Band.” In a time when most bands were dressing like Buddy Holly and the Crickets, Captain Beefheart and his Magic Band dressed like buccaneers on a night raid—eye patches, waist-length hair, black boots, and long, black, leather coats. They garnered enough popularity regionally to attract the attention of A&M records, but their first single went nowhere, and their popularity stalled. Eventually, Beefheart approached Bob Krasnow, executive at Kama Sutra Records, who agreed to cut twelve of Beefheart’s songs for a record.

On *Safe as Milk* (1967), Captain Beefheart paints the music of Muddy Waters with the brush of Salvador Dalí, offering up the psychedelic perfection of those early avant-garde/blues chimeras such as “Lost in a Whirlpool.” Distilling the angst, experimentation, and sheer inertia that carried the Hippie movement complacently to its doom, Beefheart, like an alchemist creating the perfect homunculus, captures the zeitgeist of the ‘60s in miniature. Rounding out this impossible mixture are calypso, protopunk, musique concrete, polyrhythms, antirhythms, and ariatic surges of opera, all assimilated into a 33-minute Frankenstein powered by an R&B nervous system. Sometimes, the intensity of Beefheart’s wailing and the ambitious frenzy of the music (like on “Electricity”) make it seem like the album is going to shake itself apart at the seams, but Beefheart is a kind of master interrogator, knowing when to give his audience a much-needed breath of air and when to shove their heads back under the ice water. By the end of the record, the listener does come away with the feeling that they have been through an ordeal of sorts, though it is something more akin to an initiation than to a torture session.

Obscured by the absurdist nature of the lyrics and rendered yet-more unintelligible by Beefheart’s barbwire snarl, the themes of this album revolve around finding solidity and validation in a world in flux. Songs like “Zig Zag Wanderer” cast a piteous light on the grasshoppers who took a bus to San Francisco and never bought a new pair of shoes thereafter, while “Dropout Boogie” is the conformative impetus that put them there to begin with. This perspective is mirrored in “Yellow Brick Road,” which heroizes

ALBUM OF THE MONTH

rejecting the inevitability of hardship and marching into escapist idealism.

This reaches the crux of why this album is the forgotten bastard of the Summer of Love. For all of the optimism that year carried with it, the writing was already on the wall for the implosion of the Freak/Hippie movement and the wave of dissatisfaction and emptiness its collapse would leave in its wake. *Safe as Milk*, already a sonically and lyrically inscrutable work, was also categorically out of lockstep with the popular music of the time, which was preoccupied with the benevolence and optimism of a coming new order that would prove to never be. Beefheart had been rebuffed by many a record executive with these concerns, but, as is the case with many geniuses, Beefheart refused to compromise his artistic vision for commercial interest. Unlike the acts previously listed, who challenged the conventions of an earlier generation and galvanized the wills of the youth, *Safe as Milk* perplexed its intended audience with its opacity and whispered doubts that they didn't want to hear. The album debuted amidst a line-up change in the Magic Band which left Beefheart unable to tour for months, and the ironically-named *Safe as Milk* sank like a stone.

The imperfections of *Safe as Milk* are reflections of Beefheart himself. Don Van Vliet would go on to double down on the esoteric nature of his music, creating one of the most polarizing (and important, according to Rolling Stone's Top 500 Albums list) rock albums of all time, *Trout Mask Replica*. He was extremely difficult to get along with, as well – he ran his band like a tyrant, paid his musicians next to nothing, and when asked for playing direction, would often give vague instructions like, “play it like you're dragging it through a graveyard at night,” and would then fly into a rage if the resultant sound wasn't to his liking. Even former classmate Frank Zappa, who invited Beefheart to tour with him in 1976, eventually tired of his old friend and fired him one night after Vliet spent the concert writing free poetry on stage instead of singing.

Captain Beefheart would verge several times on the brink of success, and each time fail to achieve it due to his hardline artistic purity and difficult personality. Eventually, he stopped making records and became a successful painter. To some, it might have appeared that he had given up on being understood by the rock 'n' roll world. The truth is, though, that Captain Beefheart never asked for anyone to understand him – parents or listeners alike. The product and the message and the purpose were all a singularity to Beefheart, who presented them self-evidently and without apology or restraint. Looking back on this record fifty-six years later, it is easy to see that *Safe as Milk* may just be the first brick to fall from the Hippies' Tower of Babel, and we can finally understand what Beefheart was too ahead of his time to say in 1967.

HAPPY MASONIC BIRTHDAY

- Bro. Donald Gardner Hicks Jr. May 14, 1962, 61 years
- Bro. Albert Sylvester Durrer May 21, 1964, 59 years
- Bro. Frank Lee Ballenger III May 22, 1967, 56 years
- Bro. Donald Smith Kenney May 22, 1967, 56 years
- Rt. Wor. Donald Leo McAndrews May 22, 1970, 52 years
- Bro. Richard Robert McElwee May 01, 1975, 48 years
- Wor. Alton Levern Miller Jr. May 14, 1975, 48 years
- Bro. John Joseph Cornnell Jr. May 17, 1976, 47 years
- Bro. Charles Albert Gorton May 12, 1977, 16 years
- Bro. Robert Arthur Smith May 12, 1979, 44 years
- Bro. A. Vincent May May 19, 1979, 44 years
- Bro. Arthur Willard Pierson May 01, 1981, 42 years
- Bro. Charles Leander Moore Jr. May 29, 1986, 37 years
- Bro. James Robertson Kent Jr. May 27, 1987, 36 years
- Bro. Philip Grant Graessle II May 06, 1991, 32 years
- Rt. Wor. Mark Wayne Underwood May 11, 1992, 31 years
- Bro. Chester Claude Cook May 23, 1992, 31 years
- Bro. Conor Torquil Sinclair May 15, 1999, 24 years
- Bro. Wade Stuart Alexander May 15, 2000, 23 years
- Bro. Thomas Lee Ammazalorso May 16, 2005, 18 years
- Bro. Ferdinand Charles Petito May 21, 2007, 16 years
- Bro. David Scott Shaver May 21, 2007, 16 years
- Bro. Richard Kern Salazar May 17, 2008, 15 years
- Bro. Phillip John Ferraro May 14, 2012, 11 years
- Bro. Stephen Christopher Melone May 28, 2015, 8 years
- Bro. Arash Aaron Habibipour May 21, 2019, 4 years

2023 LODGE OFFICERS

Wor. David Gabriel Bella.....	Worshipful Master
<i>Mobile: 228-282-0906 Email: Master@AW22.org</i>	
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
<i>Phone: 703-549-9234 Email: Secretary@AW22.org 101 Callahan Dr., Alexandria, Va. 22301</i>	
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Bro. Jonathan Joseph Siudmak.....	Senior Deacon
Bro. Ronald Earl Craft, Jr.....	Junior Deacon
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Bro. Christopher Gared Sterbling.....	Senior Steward
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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. Nikola 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