

# LODGE BULLETIN

DECEMBER 2023

[www.AW22.ORG](http://www.AW22.ORG)

# MASTER'S MESSAGE

Brethren—

Much like the previous eleven months this year, there is much work to be done in December and I hope you participate where your cable tow allows. There are four dates I will highlight before I get to an end of year message.

Our Lodge has been present at Mount Vernon on December fourteenth since Brother Washington's passing two hundred and twenty four years ago. Come be part of this year's remembrance of our most revered Brother. In the evening, we will have our stated communication where we will elect officers for next year.

Two days later, the Lodge will participate in distributing food to Alexandrians in need from seven to eleven in the morning at the William Ramsay Recreation Center. Please bring your friends and family who are older than fifteen. Work will be done outside so bundle up. RSVP to Master@AW22.org by December tenth so we can assist ALIVE! with job planning.

If you were initiated at AW22 last year or this year, you are invited to our annual end of year brunch at Ambar in Clarendon at 12:45PM on the sixteenth. Please RSVP to Brother Siudmak, jsudmak@gmail.com by the tenth. The meal is covered by the Lodge, but seats are limited.

Finally, our Installation of Officers will be on St. John the Evangelist Day. Please RSVP to Reservations@AW22.org to ensure we have adequate refreshments.

What a year. The amount of memories we made, the amount of effort many of us put into pushing the Lodge forward, and the friendships formed made a lasting impact on me. It is a year I will always remember. I am extremely proud of what we accomplished and I am grateful for all the support. I am also grateful for the Worshipful Masters before me generally, but more specifically for entrusting me to serve as an officer the last few years, which eventually set me up to be elected to the East at our esteemed Lodge. Thank you to everyone who donated their time to support the Lodge this year, especially since I pumped the schedule full of events. Everyday I worked to make the Lodge better, and there was a cadre of Brethren who followed my lead. I would also like to say a special thank you to Marina for being such a supportive partner these few years. If you think dealing with me a few nights a week is tough, try living with me. She is an angel.

Since I was technically elected, I suppose I am a politician. And a politician never misses a good opportunity to be verbose, especially when their time is running short. Therefore, I would like to spend the next page talking about how I see the Lodge today and where we need to go in the future. Though there is much to celebrate, there is still work to be done.

# MASTER'S MESSAGE

In many ways I see this year as a continuation of the previous six. My involvement this year increased, no doubt, but I jumped in head first from day one. I was the first candidate the Lodge initiated after a period of extreme volatility. The Lodge I was initiated into is dramatically different than our Lodge today. It would be unrecognizable to the sixteen Masons we raised this year. The leadership of the recent Past Masters and the work countless Masons put into our Lodge between today and when I was initiated is the reason we are on such solid footing. Thank you.

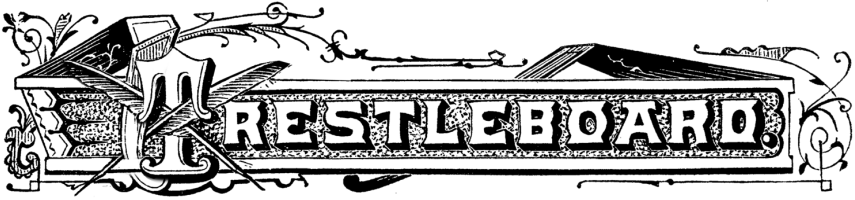
After years of growth, I am here to declare Alexandria-Washington Lodge is back. Back to the standard given to us by our Charter Master: an incredibly strong Lodge that is doing the right things at the right time. Our ritual work is strong. The brotherhood is there. Masonic education is accessible. We have a strong officer line. Our archives are being reinvigorated and reimagined. Brother Washington would be extremely proud of his Lodge. Are we at the pinnacle of what can be accomplished? Absolutely not. Are we as prominent as we used to be? Probably not. But we have incredible momentum. Next time you come to a stated, take a moment to observe the buzz in the dining hall, the Lodge room, or at collation afterwards. Again, this is not me tooting my own horn, it is an undeniable fact and it is because of years of work by the men who came before us.

What needs to be done to continue this momentum and positive trajectory? First, we have to remain cohesive. We cannot have internal quarrels or disputes and we must actively guard the west gate to ensure we are admitting men into our ranks who will contribute, not detract, from our Lodge culture. Second, we need a doubling down on adding value to our members' Masonic journey. High quality programs, strong education, and welcoming smiles are a must. Third, the standard we must set is to the level of Washington's: the highest possible. Finally, it is going to take all of us rolling up our sleeves and continuing to do good, wholesome Masonic work. The real value unlock are the members on the sidelines. You are the key to taking us to the next level.

What comes next for me? I am very excited about supporting my friends that are in the officer line in their future endeavors, returning to my roots of catechism instruction, and doing a deeper dive into Masonic education. Thank you so much for your support, it has been a great ride.

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





## DECEMBER 2023

*December 3rd*

14:00 Board of Trustees  
Meeting

*December 16th*

07:00 Family & Friends:  
Food Distribution Volunteer  
with ALIVE! at William  
Ramsay Rec Center  
(all welcome)

*December 9th*

Quarterly Archives Tour

*December 14th*

07:30 Wreath Laying at  
Mount Vernon to honor  
Brother Washington  
(all welcome)

*December 16th*

12:45 End of Year New  
Member Brunch  
(Open to all AW22 Masons  
initiated in 2022 or 2023)

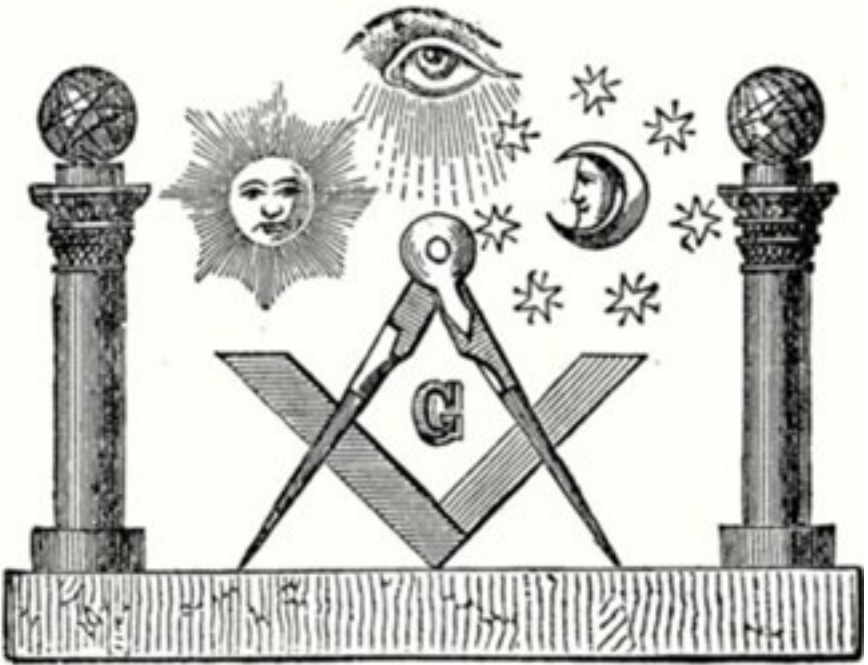
*December 14th*

18:30 Dinner  
19:30 Stated Communication:  
Elections

*December 27th*

19:30 Officer Installation  
(all welcome)

- ∴ 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

DECEMBER 14TH, 2023

HOLIDAY STUFFED CHICKEN BREAST  
MASHED POTATOES  
HOLIDAY STUFFING  
CRANBERRY APPLE SALAD

*Suggested Donation: \$10*

Please RSVP to [Reservations@AW22.org](mailto:Reservations@AW22.org)

# 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

# LINES OF EFFORT

## ALEXANDRIA INSTITUTION 2/3

The first two lines of effort were easily accomplished. The accessibility report has not been fully written and is planned to be completed in early 2024. A deliberate choice was made to hold off on submitting the report in September in order to ensure the report did not sacrifice quality for expediency.

## LODGE OF WASHINGTON 3/5

The first three lines of effort were accomplished. Only one presentation on Washington was given in 2023, and only one article about Washington was published. With respect to the latter, several other prominent non-Washington related articles written by members of the Lodge were featured in the Masonic Herald, Scottish Rite Journal, and Heredom, which demonstrates what the line of effort was partly about: members of the Lodge demonstrating public Masonic scholarship.

## EXCELLENCE IN MASONRY 6/7

The Lodge won the Hillman, visited the Grand Lodge of NY & PA and the House of the Temple, had the most new appendant body members in the District, and membership had a net gain of about a dozen. The Lodge visited every Lodge in the District, minus Sharon who meets on the same night and had no degree work this year, making it almost impossible to visit, so I am counting it as accomplished. I am moving the goal post on the fifth bullet. It is widely acknowledged that Worshipful Dantev qualifies for a Silver Card, but will save the examination until he is ready for his Gold Card examination. In terms of lectures, Wor. Dantev and Rt. Wor. King can perform the EA, Brother Craft and myself can do the FC, and Wor. Dantev and myself can do the MM. I am counting this one as accomplished.

Our Senior Warden and I brainstormed and drafted out a new membership program that I hope informs 2024, but I cannot say in good faith it was implemented as I had planned.

Thank you for helping push the Lodge forward.

# ALBUM OF THE MONTH

*SINATRA AT THE SANDS*  
*FRANK SINATRA, 1966*



*I see many similarities between myself and Sinatra when he recorded this album. He was a seasoned veteran, was having lots of fun, and was supported by a wonderful backing band.*

*Thank you for listening along with me this year. I hope you enjoyed listening and found the music and analysis insightful.*

*∴ David*

December is a busy month in the roles that it occupies for our lives.

December is, of course, the month of Christmas, and so resultantly is also the source of an unavoidable, recurrent nostalgia, which, thanks to perennial corporate strategy, Americans of all faiths get to enjoy for the last two months each year. During this time, the traditions we packed away at the beginning of January are enshrined again — the nutcrackers; the tree topper; the Italian leg-shaped lamp your father won as a “major award” in a newspaper contest. Each year, the same long-dead voices come crooning Christmas carols on our car’s radios, and we are borne back in time — to last year, the year before, a decade ago, and indeed all the way back to the roots of our childhoods, where those same standards echoed in the tree-glow of our parents’ living rooms as we explored a fresh kind of warmth at our first Christmas. Each year, these songs take on fresh connotations as we age alongside them, and new experiences blend with old memories as our lives go on. Bing. Nat. Dino. As much companions to our development as they are institutions to the holiday. Of course, not last on this list of reappearing icons is Frank Sinatra, who has turns on anyone’s hometown station with a version of



# ALBUM OF THE MONTH

*SINATRA AT THE SANDS*

*FRANK SINATRA, 1966*

“Jingle Bells” and the definitive rendition of “Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas”.

December is also the last stage of our Western calendar before Nature’s great rebirth – moon be damned. New Year’s Eve is a sentimental journey, of exploration and personal growth and evolution. It is a time to toast one’s achievements with pride, admit his failures, commit to the past what has passed and greet the future as we do the morning sun on our face. Here, too, nostalgia plays a compelling role – a delicate dance between reflection and anticipation. As the clock ticks towards midnight, individuals find themselves in a reverie, weaving through the memories, challenges, and triumphs of the passing year. It’s a poignant moment – a pause button pressed on the relentless flow of time, allowing for introspection. In essence, as the clock strikes twelve, that nostalgia becomes both a companion and a guide, leading individuals through a labyrinth of their own experiences and setting the stage for a special encore of a year that’s either worth reliving or redoing, and all of the towering resolutions and soft-skinned promises that come with the prospect of Tomorrow.

It’s never best practice to drink alone, so if, by some conspiracy or some accident, you happen to find yourself all by yourself this December 31st, one could not find a better companion for the evening than Sinatra at the Sands, recorded in 1966 by none other than The Chairman of the Board himself. This album is a magic carpet ride that glides as smoothly as Sinatra’s velvet voice over the arrangements of Quincy Jones and the orchestra of Count Basie, teleporting you across gleaming, moonlit sands to that jewel of the Mojave, Las Vegas. The jet-set and good-timing Sinatra was emblematic himself of this sense of adventure. Swashbuckling, unapologetic, and probably mobbed up – but with the glamor and charm to get away with anything. Sinatra at the Sands is not just a concert recording – it’s a front row ticket to the phantom elegance of a bygone era of entertainment that sounds.

It’s hard not to be dazzled by this record, even before the singing begins. As a snare drum opens the first track “Come Fly With Me”, the emcee intones that “the Sands is proud to present a wonderful new show...” This album is filled with little nostalgic artifacts such as this, like when Frank introduces “Shadow of Your Smile” as a “new song.” evokes a sense of transport and adventure, of whisked-away exoticism and majesty.

# ALBUM OF THE MONTH

*SINATRA AT THE SANDS*

*FRANK SINATRA, 1966*

“Come Fly With Me” evokes, in its up-tempo, exuberant swing, a sense of transport and adventure; of whisked-away exoticism and majesty. Sinatra’s like a lackadaisical panther on this song as he is on most of his efforts – the affected disinterested effortlessness of his glass-slick croon gives way violently to pounces of power and volume, as at the end of this song.

Pervasive through the effort is a sense of familiarity that draws in the listener and showcases the mastery of the crowd that Sinatra had, in his then-30+-year career, worked down to an exact science. The whole album feels like one long night out with Sinatra, and the wit and comfortability of the patter (at one point for eleven uninterrupted minutes – the difference between a singer and an entertainer on full display) makes you feel like you and Sinatra are in on the same secret together.

Sinatra is not the only talent on this record, though – Count Basie and his orchestra are positively nerve-exploding, like on “Under My Skin”, where the instrumentation flares from a smolder to a swirling inferno of brass and voice (preluded by Sinatra’s warning: “Run for cover!”). Quincy Jones, who did the arrangements and conducting for the band, is a legend of such status that I won’t waste word count on describing his importance. Indeed, some of the very best parts of the album are when the music is allowed to take the forefront, such as on the instrumental “All of Me”, which sounds like the bigtime sprinkled in confetti and so much stardust.

Like any good New Year’s Eve, this album runs the gamut of emotions one would experience over the course of a year – from the sunny feelings of love (“I’ve Got a Crush on You”, “You Make Me Feel So Young”), to the agony and acceptance of aging (“The September of My Years”), a few boozy, maudlin tributes to lessons learned along the way (“Angel Eyes”, “One For My Baby”), and a healthy bit of bawdiness to bring a tinge of rosiness to the cheeks (the instrumental, “Makin’ Whoopee”). The fireworks at midnight are Sinatra’s powerhouse closer, “My Kind of Town”, after which Sinatra bids us farewell amid a promise that we can find him at the bar, if we’re looking. By the time the needle leaves the groove, you’re left wishing you could.

It was a very good year.

# HAPPY MASONIC BIRTHDAY

Wor. Mark Arbeen, December 4, 34 years

Bro. Samuel Ayers, December 9, 35 years

Bro. George Brandner, December 14, 40 years

Mt. Wor. Michael Brumback, December 7, 45 years

Bro. David Buffaloe, December 20, 19 years

Wor. Brent Campbell, December 8, 26 years

Bro. Jesse Geriak, December 17, 1 year

Bro. William Grupe, December 1, 63 years

Bro. Carl Hallstead, December 20, 50 years

Bro. Ronald Henderson, December 17, 18 years

Bro. Timothy Look, December 1, 5 years

Bro. Vaughan Mason, December 13, 5 years

Bro. Thomas Phillips, December 12, 64 years

Bro. Terry Plummer, December 3, 37 years

Wor. Timmy Shrum, December 9, 38 years

Bro. Dennis Smith, December 18, 25 years

Bro. Arthur Wallace, December 3, 11 years

Rt. Wor. Robert Watkins, December 7, 30 years

Bro. Jakob Zilinski, December 17, 1 year

## 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>	
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. Jakob Aonghus Zilinski.....	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. Nikola N. Nikolov, PM.....	2027

## LIVING PAST MASTERS ON THE ROLLS

1975	Donald M. Robey, PGM	2005	Jesse T. McMahan, V
1976	James B. Stone	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
2004	Frank S. Skwirut		