



Lodge Bulletin

April 2024

www.AW22.org

Master's Message

Dear Brethren,

As the warmer weather and new life comes with the changing season, I hope it brings joy to your hearts. Reflecting on March, I'm reminded of the powerful hope that spring embodies. The month began heavy with sorrow, as we bid farewell to two of our cherished brothers. Their absence weighs heavily on us all, and their memory will be forever etched in the annals of our Lodge. Yet, March ended with hope, raising two deserving Brethren to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason.

Often, the beginning of March leaves us feeling a bit depleted with the joys of the holiday season long past. We trudge through the days, a sense of dormancy lingering in the air. Then, with the arrival of spring, a subtle shift occurs. A familiar feeling washes over us – a resurgence of hope and optimism. The world seems to awaken, and with it, our spirits rise. It's as if nature itself is reminding us of the promise held within each new season.

Mark Twain captured this feeling when he wrote, "It's spring fever. That is what the name of it is. And when you've got it, you want—oh, you don't quite know what it is you DO want, but it just fairly makes your heart ache, you want it so!"

This restlessness is the essence of spring fever. It's a restless yearning for connection, for renewal, for a chance to embrace all that the future has to offer. Let us harness this energy to build momentum for our Lodge. Let us find a way to be more involved in our Lodge and with our Brothers. And let us welcome our newest members with open arms as we embark on this new season with a renewed sense of purpose and hope.

Sincerely and Fraternally,

Nelo Allen Hamilton, Jr.
Worshipful Master
Master@AW22.org
202-856-4686





April 2024

April 8

7:00 PM | New Mason Education Session
Entered Apprentice Degree 101
GWMNM

April 11

6:30 PM | Fellowship Dinner
7:30 PM | Stated Communication
Closed Program: Anderson's Constitutions
Bro. Shawn Evers

April 13

11:00 AM | AW22 Officer's Meeting
GWMNM

April 20

8:30 AM | Scottish Rite Spring Reunion
Alexandria Scottish Rite

April 23

6:30 PM | Master & Wardens Association Meeting
Concord Lodge No. 307

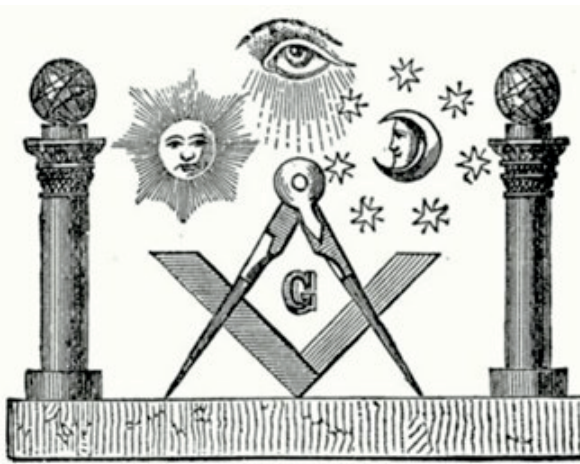
April 25

6:30 PM | Fellowcraft Degree
GWMNM

April 27

8:30 AM | Scottish Rite Spring Reunion
Alexandria Scottish Rite

- Catechism Schools are every Thursday night at 6:30 PM and Saturday morning at 10:00 AM unless otherwise noted. Ritual Schools are every Thursday night at 7:30 PM 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

April 11, 2024

Beef Burgundy

Mediterranean Pasta Salad

Caesar Salad

White Jazmine Rice

Faccacia

Suggested Donation: \$10

Please RSVP to Reservations@AW22.org

The Mithras Cult

Written by Bro. Chris Ruli

The Mithras cult, shrouded in mystery and intrigue, has captivated scholars and Masonic researchers alike for centuries. Originating from the ancient Hindu and Zoroastrian deities Mitra and Mithra, respectively, Mithraism thrived within the Roman Empire from the First to Fourth Century A.D.

Belgian archaeologist Franz Cumont's seminal work, *Textes et Monuments Figurés Relatifs Aux Mystères de Mithra*, paved the way for understanding this enigmatic cult. Despite its Persian roots, the Romans likely adopted Mithras superficially, as evidenced by a lack of detailed written records and the prevalence of Mithraic temples, known as Mithraea, throughout the empire.



Cumont's findings sparked a wave of interest in Mithraism, leading to further discoveries of Mithraic temples and artifacts throughout the Roman Empire. These excavations unearthed a wealth of evidence, including elaborate frescoes, sculptures, and inscriptions, providing valuable insights into the rituals and beliefs of the cult.

As archaeologists continued to uncover Mithraea across Europe, North Africa, and the Middle East, a clearer picture of the cult's spread and significance began to emerge. From the underground chambers of London to the ruins of Rome, each discovery added to our understanding of this enigmatic religious movement.

The study of the Mithras cult has since evolved into a multidisciplinary field, drawing on archaeology, art history, religious studies, and more. Through collaborative efforts and ongoing research, scholars continue to unravel the mysteries of Mithraism, illuminating its profound impact on the religious landscape of the ancient world.

Masonic scholars, drawn to the parallels between Freemasonry and Mithraism, delved into the rituals and symbolism shared by the two traditions. Just as Mithraea were constructed underground near water sources, Masonic lodges too were built with secrecy in mind, employing symbols and rites passed down orally. They maintained carefully guarded entrances and symbolic furnishings, which served as sanctuaries for the initiation and enlightenment of their members. The shared emphasis on architectural symbolism underscores the symbolic journey undertaken by initiates in both traditions, as they progress through the stages of spiritual enlightenment. The striking similarities in architectural layout and ritualistic practices have led Masonic scholars like Albert Pike to draw connections, albeit tenuous, between the two societies.

The Mithras Cult

Continued

The seven-grade initiation system of Mithraism mirrors several Masonic hierarchical degree structures, each grade accompanied by specific symbols and rites. From the symbolic purification of the Corax to the wisdom of the Pater, initiates progressed through a series of transformative experiences designed to deepen their understanding of the divine mysteries. The discovery of these grades beneath the Santa Prisca Church in Rome in 1934 provided valuable insight into Mithraic initiation practices, revealing a shared emphasis on symbolism and progression. Initiation also fostered a sense of brotherhood and camaraderie among its members, bound together by shared experiences and rituals. The bonds forged in the darkness of the Mithraeum transcended social boundaries, creating a community of like-minded individuals united in their pursuit of spiritual truth.

While the influence of Mithraism on Christianity has been debated, contemporary research suggests that any perceived threat was minimal, given Mithraism's exclusivity and limited interest within Rome itself. However, the enduring fascination with Mithras among Masonic scholars, exemplified by Grand Commander Albert Pike's exploration of Eastern religions, underscores the enduring legacy of this ancient cult.

As Masonic researchers continue to uncover parallels between the two traditions, they illuminate not only the mysteries of Mithras but also the timeless truths embedded within Freemasonry's ritual and symbolism



Have you paid your dues?
Pay online by scanning
the QR Code:



Happy Masonic Birthday



Wor. Joshua David Adler April 23, 17 years
Bro. Marko Bojovic, April 29, 1 Year
Bro. Charles Alexander Bradburn, April 29, 1, year
Bro. Douglas Michael Bradburn, April 29, 1 year
Bro. Michael Darren Burt April 20, 33 years
Wor. Denislav Valeriev Dantev April 25, 5 years
Bro. Robert Allen Duncan April 20, 33 years
Wor. William VanHardin Gilbert April 5, 13 years
Bro. Jason Ross Goldstein April 6, 7 years
Bro. Daniel Ryan Gordon April 20, 1 year
Bro. Garrett Creigh Greensmith April 29, 1 year
Bro. Matthew Richard Grizzard April 4, 19 years
Bro. Helmut Karl Hentschel April 12, 16 years
Bro. Joseph Choplin Jacobson April 30, 17 years
Bro. Henley Kirk Jones April 20, 33 years
Bro. Naaren Julooru April 29. 1 year
Bro. Anthony William Kitzmiller April 8, 18 years
Bro. Angus Slater Lamond Jr. April 26, 51 years
Bro. Adam Seton Legrand April 17, 14 years
Wor. Thomas Gayle Little April 7, 30 years
Bro. Vincent Joseph Lopez April 30, 6 years
Bro. Thomas Edward Maultsby April 8, 49 years
Bro. Glenn Edward McDonald April 18, 44 years
Bro. John Paul Mignone April 29, 1 year
Bro. Andrew Vincent Murphy April 20, 33 years
Wor. Nikola Nikolov Nikolov April 11, 11 years
Bro. Eric Eugene Plantrich April 14, 19 years
Bro. Michael Joseph Quigley April 20, 1 year
Bro. John Charles Rasmus April 12, 53 years
Bro. Jacob Adam Schroeder April 22, 14 years
Bro. William Hoover Swan April 19, 25 years
Wor. Michael Taldo April 8, 9 years
Bro. Arash H. Zarrabi April 29, 1 year



2024 Lodge Officers

Wor. Nelo Allen Hamilton, Jr - Worshipful Master

Mobile : 202-856-4686 Email: Master@AW22.org

Bro. Phillip Adam Smartt - Senior Warden

Bro. Jonathan Joseph Siudmak - Junior Warden

Wor. Michael Lee Bailey, PM - Treasurer

Wor. Daniel Elias Froggett, PM - Secretary

Phone: 757-656-1838 Email: Secretary@AW22.org 101 Callahan Dr., Alexandria, VA 22301

Rt. Wor. Granville Clayton "Jack" Canard, Jr, PDDGM - Secretary Emeritus

Bro. Ronald Earl Craft, Jr - Senior Deacon

Bro. Jakob Aonghus Zilinski - Junior Deacon

Wor. Denislav Valeriev Dantev, PM - Chaplain

Bro. Daniel Ryan Gordon - Senior Steward

Bro. Thomas Harrison Lynch - Junior Steward

Bro. James Henry Ferguson - Marshal

Bro. Naaren Juloori - Musician

Wor. Pablo Alejandro Rocha, PM - Tiler

Board of Trustees

Bro. Jeffery W. C. Conn (Chair) - 2024

Wor. James Berkley Stone, PM - 2025

Wor. Jesse T. McMahan, V, PM - 2026

Wor. Nikola N. Nikolov, PM - 2027

Wor. David G. Bella, PM - 2028

Living Past Masters on the Rolls

1976 - James B. Stone

1991 - Earl C. Million

1992 - Granville C. Canard, Jr. PDDGM

1995 - George D. Seghers, PDDGM

1996,18 - Mark W. Underwood, PDDGM

1997 - Walter L. Margeson, II

1998 - Philip J. Hays

1999,17 - Michael P. Bible, PDDGM

2000 - Terry L. Gigure

2001 - Brent N. Campbell

2002 - Daniel M. Clark, PDDGM

2003 - James M. Stevenson

2004 - Frank Skwirut

2005 - Jesse T. McMahan, V

2006 - Thomas G. Little

2009 - Heber C. Willis, III

2011 - John P. Olson

2012 - Michael L. Bailey

2013 - Joshua D. Adler

2014 - Robert T. Weston

2016 - Stephen J. Pezzetti

2019 - Nikola N. Nikolov

2020 - Daniel E. Froggett

2021 - Michael T. Huff

2022 - Denislav V. Dantev

2023 - David G. Bella