



Lodge Bulletin

June 2024

www.AW22.org

Master's Message

Dear Brethren,

It's hard to believe we are already halfway through the year!

Thank you all who came out for the Spring Picnic! We had a great time of fellowship! A very special thank you to Bro. William Bryan with So Mote It Beef for catering!

I am looking forward to an exciting month ahead! One of our staple events each year is our Feast of Saint John the Baptist Table Lodge on June 24, 2024, at Gadsby's Tavern. This year, we will gather in the historic ballroom while the American Legion room is under renovation. This room is significant in many ways but most the notable in both 1798 and 1799 Bro. George Washington celebrated birthday celebrations in his honor known as the Birthnight Ball. Tickets to the table lodge are still available so join us for an unforgettable evening.

Please come out and support our Brother being raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason on Thursday, June 20th. Let's have a good turnout to support him and the cast.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,

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





June 2024

June 10

8:00 PM | AW22 Foundation Board Meeting
Virtual

June 13

6:30 PM | Fellowship Dinner
7:30 PM | Stated Communication
Closed Program by Bro. Michael Wiesenfeld
Diplomacy and Freemasonry

June 20

7:00 PM | Master Mason Degree
GWMNM

June 23

3:00 PM | Board of Trustees Meeting
4:00 PM | Archives Committee Meeting
GWMNM

June 24

6:30 PM | Table Lodge
Program by Bro. Doug Bradburn
Gadsby's Tavern

Save the Date

October 13 | AW22 Symposium
October 14 | Mount Vernon Cornerstone Dedication Ceremony
Details are forthcoming.

- 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.

Feast of St. John the Baptist: A Day of Masonic Celebration

By Wor. David G. Bella, PM, Alexandria-Washington Lodge No. 22

St. John the Baptist is a major figure in Christian, Islamic, Druid, Bahá'í, and Gnostic tradition. The Catholic Church assigns feast days as being days of a saint's death, but there are two notable exceptions: the birthdays of Mary and St. John the Baptist. June 24 was selected because it is three months after Gabriel told Mary that her cousin, Elizabeth, was carrying the child that would become St. John the Baptist. Focusing on his most important role in the New Testament, John is considered a forerunner to Jesus and the one who Baptizes him in the Jordan River. According to Matthew 11, while John is imprisoned for criticizing Herod Antipas, Jesus regards John highly, saying, "there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist."

Much like the origins of Freemasonry, the adoption story of St. John the Baptist as a patron saint is murky. St. Thomas the Apostle seems to have been a more natural fit as he is the patron saint of stonemasons. The Regus Poem references the Four Crowned Martyrs, but not St. John. Perhaps the tie to St. John descends from the builders of the Cologne Cathedral who called themselves the Fraternity of St. John the Baptist. Whatever the case, the Premier Grand Lodge of England was founded on June 24, 1717 and it has been a special date on the Masonic calendar ever since. Alexandria-Washington Lodge No. 22 has a storied history of celebrating this feast, most notably electing George Washington to membership in 1784.

While understanding the religious and historical roots of this day are important, the intent of this article is to persuade you to hold the day in the highest of esteem.

Much like the pagan inspired symbology of the day, with the sun being at its zenith, Masons too should view the day as the culmination of a year of Masonic work. View the day as a high point in the year for accomplishing what you set out to do in the context of Masonry. Did you put in the time this year to be all that you can be? Are you still on your journey to become a perfect ashlar? Use the day as a due date for reading that Masonic book you have been meaning to read, becoming closer to the Great Architect,

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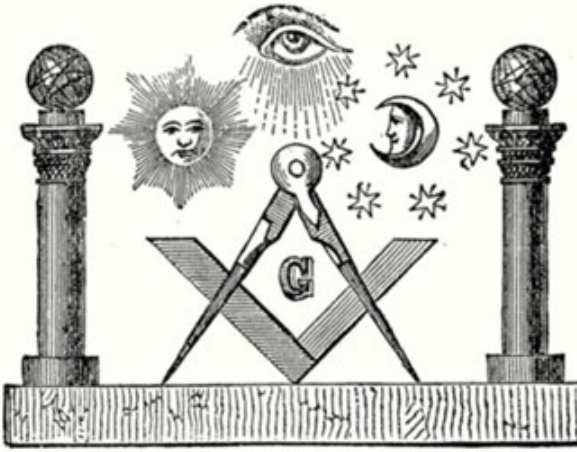
(Continued...)

or finally paying your dues. Submit your work on the 23rd, take the 24th off to celebrate the work you and your brothers accomplished in the year, and then get back to work on your next task at hand on the 25th.

There are “days” for just about everything. National Smoothie Day, National Insurance Day, National I Love My Dentist Day, National Ballpoint Pen Day....the list devolves into the absurd. Why not a day of Freemasonry? Surely the institution of Freemasonry is more deserving of a special day than the ballpoint pen...right? Here is the call to make St. John the Baptist Day “Great Again”. Post a picture of your lodge on Facebook. Wear a Masonic t-shirt to the grocery store. Mention Masonry to the guy you like in the accounting department at work. Advertise that you are proud to be a Mason for all the hard work you do to improve your inner self and your community. It is a day to be proud of the institution you represent.

Finally, it should be a day to metaphorically follow John the Baptist’s example in Mark 1:27 “He it is, who coming after me is preferred before me, whose shoe’s latchet I am not worthy to unloose.” Do a quick Google search about Masonic happenings and you hear of the sky falling about the decline in membership, loss of social standing, or political infighting. Masonry’s only hope for the future is to believe and act that Masonry’s best times are in the future, not the past. Are you willing to walk in the wilderness, subsist on locust and honey, and lay the way for the coming of better times?

Looking around, I believe the answer is yes, which is a fact I am looking forward to celebrating with you at Gadsby’s on the 24th.



Bill of Fare

April 11, 2024

Peruvian Roasted Chicken Breast

Salad

Oven Roasted Carrots and Broccoli

Suggested Donation: \$10

Please RSVP to Reservations@AW22.org

Happy Masonic Birthday



Bro. Mark Mathew Adams, June 20, 5 years
Bro. Joel Scott Armstrong, June 21, 29 years
Bro. Robert Blaine Baber Jr., June 30, 49 years
Wor. Michael Lee Bailey, June 1, 18 years
Wor. David Gabriel Bella, June 7, 6 years
Bro. William John Black, June 19, 51 years
Bro. Pascal Bussiere, June 25, 26 years
Bro. Keith Ross Butler, June 16, 21 years
Wor. Paul Hamlett Goforth, June 15, 43 years
Bro. Rufus Baxter Griffith Jr., June 23, 49 years
Bro. Nelo Allen Hamilton, Jr., June 20, 5 years
Bro. Kevin Mark Kern, June 28, 35 years
Bro. Donald Saunders Litman, June 9, 38 years
Bro. Brian Robert Marvin, June 22, 1 year
Bro. Charles William McElwee, June 4, 54 years
Bro. Christopher Norton, June 7, 27 years
Bro. Bruce Harrison Phillips, June 3, 48 years
Bro. John Pipta, June 22, 60 years
Bro. Matthew Roman, June 15, 20 years
Bro. Robert William Rondeau, June 30, 27 years
Bro. Douglas Jeffrey Snow, June 15, 28 years
Bro. James Madison Snyder, June 16, 72 years
Bro. Luis Angel Vega Jr., June 2, 25 years
Wor. Larry Edward Williams, June 7, 41 years



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