



Lodge Bulletin

February 2025



www.AW22.org

Master's Message

Brethren,

What a start to the year! As we made final preparations for our first stated communication of 2025, Nature had other plans and brought nearly a foot of ice and snow to Alexandria. Thank you for your flexibility as we considered the health and safety of our members and made the decision to postpone the meeting to later in the month. Due to the change in schedule, we were able to make our first fraternal visit to Sharon Lodge No. 327 - who also meets on the second Thursday - in many years. At our own meeting later in January, we welcomed visits from two of our sister lodges. Even in these earliest days of the year, the spirit of friendship and brotherly love is alive and well in District 1A!

On January 11, with plenty of snow still on the ground, a number of our brethren and prospective members braved the early morning cold to gather at Arlington National Cemetery and help with the removal of more than 250,000 graveside wreaths that had been placed for the holiday season. A special thanks to Bro. Brian "Ozzy" Marvin for organizing AW22's participation to honor the memory of our nation's heroes who embodied the Masonic ideals of patriotism and selfless service.

February is here, which means we have a full month of events and celebrations commemorating the 293rd birthday of our most illustrious brother. Planned activities include marching in Alexandria's George Washington Birthday Parade, our time honored tradition of laying a wreath at the Washington tomb at Mount Vernon, a second stated communication celebrating Washington's Masonic life and legacy, and the annual birthday gala hosted by the George Washington Masonic National Memorial. I hope you will be able to join us for as many of these activities as possible, and keep an eye out for additional details in the coming days and weeks. February is an exciting time to be a Virginia Mason so please take advantage of our opportunities to celebrate!

Sincerely and Fraternaly,

Phillip Adam Smartt
Worshipful Master
Master@AW22.org





February 2025

February 5

Masters & Wardens Association
6:30 PM | Fellowship Dinner
7:30 PM | Meeting
Kemper-Macon Ware Lodge No. 64

February 8

Division Leadership Conference
8:30 AM
GWMNM

February 13

6:30 PM | Fellowship Dinner
7:30 PM | Stated Communication
GWMNM

February 15

George Washington Birthday Parade
2:00 PM
Old Town Alexandria

February 22

Washington Birthday Wreath Laying
7:30 AM
Mount Vernon

Washington Birthday Stated Communication

3:30 PM
GWMNM

George Washington Birthday Gala

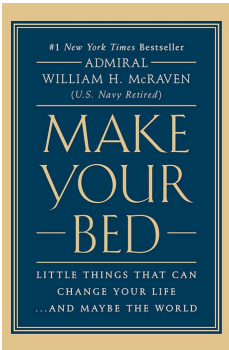
5:00 PM
GWMNM

- 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 (except on Stated Communication 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.

Ex Libris

Make Your Bed: Little Things That Can Change Your Life ...and Maybe the World

ADM William H. McRaven (U.S. Navy Retired)



“If you want to change the world, start off by making your bed.”

- ADM William H. McRaven

Over the course of a distinguished 37-year military career, Admiral William McRaven no doubt encountered myriad opportunities for lessons in overcoming obstacles, learning from failure and becoming an effective leader of men.

In a 2014 commencement speech at the University of Texas, however, he recalled a formative period at the very beginning of his career: the grueling training program to become a Navy SEAL.

Considered one of the most difficult military training programs, many estimates place the graduation rate for Basic Underwater Demolition/SEAL (BUD/S) at only 20% - four out of five trainees do not complete the 6-month regimen of extreme physical and psychological trials including sleep deprivation, long swims in frigid waters, even longer runs, intensive combat training and doing it all with the exacting precision that is the only thing standing between exhausted sailors and the swift discipline eagerly meted out by their instructors.

How could this possibly apply to me? Reading the book with my feet propped up, a cozy fire burning in the fireplace, my experience couldn't be farther from the scenes unfolding on the page.

Admiral McRaven was quick to disabuse me of this notion, and it all starts with making my bed.

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Ex Libris

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Specifically, if making your bed is the very first thing you do after waking up in the morning - perhaps not to the same meticulous standards he described in training - you immediately begin your day with a task successfully completed. You can then move on to the next, and before long you're well on your way to a productive day. Which leads to a productive week, month and year.

In a book that can easily be read in one or two sittings, over the course of ten brief chapters the author lays out various learnings from his time in training that can be directly applied to our own personal, professional, familial and fraternal lives. From the importance of relying on your teammates and making sure everyone is rowing in the same direction, to standing up to bullies (via a harrowing tale of a nighttime swim in shark infested waters), to learning from failure and the importance of giving those around you hope, the author offers powerful and at times amusing motivations for becoming the type of person who is capable of improving himself, his community, and perhaps even the world.

All by something as simple as making your bed.

Review by Wor. Adam Smartt



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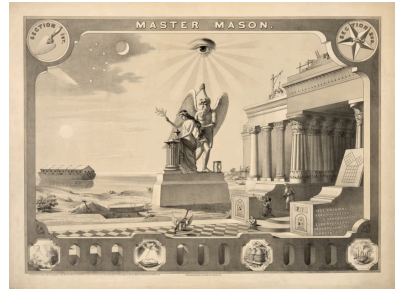
Perspectives of the Craft

Father Time and the Weeping Virgin

Bro. Nathaniel Brown

Fraternal Review (September 2024)

Southern California Research Lodge



Tracing Boards, such as the Master Mason version pictured here, can be a valuable contemplative aid for internalizing the teachings of a Masonic Degree, by providing a visual map of the various symbols taught therein. In most American Masonic jurisdictions, the Master Mason Degree is conferred in three sections. The focus of this popular tracing board¹ is on the emblematic hieroglyphical teaching that comprises part of the third section of the Third Degree, recognizing only in passing the first and second section, which are indicated in the upper left and right corners, respectively - characterized by a trowel for the first section, and two joined right hands over the sign of a pentagram for the second section.

In this context, the term “hieroglyphical” can be applied to an emblem design to conceal hidden knowledge from those not initiated. These hieroglyphical emblems are normally divided into nine monitorial classes of emblems; three of which denote moral truths, and four non-monitorial (“mouth to ear”) classes of emblems, which are esoteric. Prominent in the center of this tracing board is a rendering commonly referred to as “Father Time and the Weeping Virgin,” which portrays a marble monument, said to have been placed near the entrance to the unfinished Temple of King Solomon. Surrounding it are the hieroglyphical emblems, which are supplemented by various other symbols - such as the “Lewis,” a winch lifting device, and celestial objects related to the All-Seeing Eye emblem².

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Perspectives of the Craft

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Father Time and the Weeping Virgin relate directly to the allegorical story of the death, burial, and raising of Grand Master Hiram Abiff³. An obvious contradiction in the story that is worth investigating, is that of Hiram Abiff - having been buried, but also having been cremated. The inclusion in the story of both of these scenarios may imply a deeper intended meaning than that of the common literal interpretation.

Another curious observation is the symbol of a pentagram on the coffin lid, which is believed to have been used by Pythagoreans as a secret symbol to identify each other. Among other things, Pythagoras was known for his belief in immortality, and at least one prominent Freemasonic author wrote that a pentad includes immortality as one of its “keywords⁴.” This makes the placement of a pentagram on the coffin lid of Hiram Abiff, which is also marked by a Sprig of Acacia, quite remarkable.

The hieroglyphical emblems of Masonry, and their related teachings, are too often overlooked in modern short form lectures. Fortunately, masterful tracing boards such as this are still extant, and can be extremely instrumental in drawing out the most profound insights to our ancient Craft.

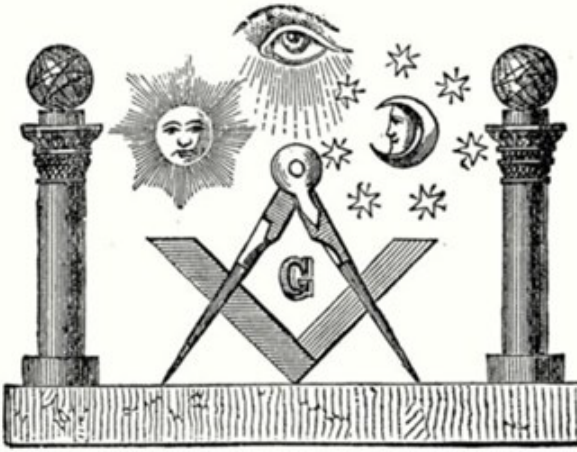
1 Charles E. Sickles 32°, for the time and the weeping maiden (c. Mid-1800.)

2 The sun is depicted directly over the ark, and appears to be setting in front of it. The crescent moon is waxing, which is said to be a sign of generation and fertility, as it relates to life and death. The star pattern allude to the “seven sisters” star cluster (Pleiades), which is mentioned in the Bible and is distinctive in the night sky. The comment is most likely symbolic of Haley’s comet, which occurs every 76 years, and was associated with the death of kings.

3 According to brother Albert Pike, 33rd°, the image of father time, and the weeping virgin actually represents a manifestation of the Egyptian god Isis, mourning over her slain husband, Osiris, while Horace (the god of time) pours ambrosia on her hair. See Albert Pike, *Morals and Dogma*, 1871, page 379, <https://sacred-texts.com/mas/md/md25.htm>

4 Manly P. Hall, *The Secret Teachings of All Ages*, 1928 P. 72, <https://sacred-texts.com/eso/sta/sta16.htm>

Nathaniel Brown is the senior warden of South Pasadena Masonic Lodge No. 290 in California; and is active in both the Scottish Rite and York Rite appendant bodies. As a member of the candidate education committee of his home lodge, he created the Master Mason class curriculum, from which this article was adapted.



Bill of Fare

February 13

Salad

Tomato, Cucumber and Onion Salad

Entrée

Beef and Chicken Kabobs with Grilled Vegetables

Sides

Tzatziki Dip

Basmati Rice

Pita Bread with Hummus

Dessert

Mediterranean Cookies

Suggested Donation: \$10

Please RSVP to reservations@AW22.org

Happy Masonic Birthday



Bro. Edward Kenneth Arndt, February 19, 74 Years

RW Sheldon Barnett Richman, February 15, 57 Years

Bro. Carlus Wayne Breland, February 2, 54 Years

Bro. Chadwick Rene Gore, February 25, 40 Years

Wor. Walter Leverne Margeson, II, February 3, 33 Years

Bro. Robert Frank Feldman, III, February 14, 25 Years

Bro. Michael Franklin Salva, February 13, 24 Years

Bro. Peter George Lincoln Cutler, February 19, 23 Years

Bro. Brendan Malcolm Burns, February 3, 22 Years

Bro. Thomas Walter Meissgeier, February 3, 22 Years

Bro. Oliver Olrog Harris, February 24, 21 Years

RW David Benjamin Browning, Jr., February 8, 20 Years

Wor. Stephen Joseph Pezzetti, February 13, 14 Years

Bro. Chris Besmir Ruli, February 1, 9 Years

Bro. Patrick Arthur Watson, II, February 19, 5 Years

Bro. Richard William Wilson, February 18, 2 Years



2025 Lodge Officers

Wor. Phillip Adam Smartt - Worshipful Master

Mobile: 423-505-7704 Email: Master@AW22.org

Bro. Jonathan Joseph Siudmak - Senior Warden

Bro. Ronald Earl Craft, Jr. - Junior Warden

Wor. Michael Lee Bailey, PM - Treasurer

Wor. David Gabriel Bella, 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. Jakob Aonghus Zilinski - Senior Deacon

Bro. Daniel Ryan Gordon - Junior Deacon

Bro. Thomas Harrison Lynch - Chaplain

Bro. Naaren Juloori - Senior Steward

Bro. Brian Mark Williams - Junior Steward

Bro. Jon Edward Wulfekuehler - Marshal

Wor. Pablo Alejandro Rocha, PM - Tiler

Board of Trustees

Wor. James Berkley Stone, PM - 2025

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

Wor. Nikola N. Nikolov, PM - 2027

Bro. Gene Vincent Giordano - 2028

Bro. Paul Edward Korschak - 2029

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 S. 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

2024 - Nelo A. Hamilton, Jr.

