



# Lodge Bulletin

June 2025



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

# Master's Message

Brethren,

June is here and it's hard to believe that we are nearly halfway through 2025. Perhaps it is the pace of lodge life at AW22, with a vibrant line of men knocking at the door and progressing quickly through the degrees, charitable and social events and the constant pursuit of ritual excellence through weekly, well-attended catechism and ritual schools.

The pace continues this month, as we will soon raise a new brother to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason, and then celebrate our time-honored Feast of Saint John the Baptist Table Lodge on June 24 at Gadsby's Tavern. It will be an exciting and eventful month and I encourage you to join in the festivities.

Additionally, and perhaps more importantly, June is also Men's Mental Health Month. In recent years many members of our lodge have recommitted themselves to relieve and sustain their brethren who may be seeking an outstretched hand, even if they don't realize it. Whether it's resources offered through our own Mental Health Initiative ([aw22.org/mentalhealthinitiative](http://aw22.org/mentalhealthinitiative)) or a simple conversation over coffee, there is no shortage of ways to offer a hand of friendship and brotherly love. This month, please take a moment to check in on yourselves and each other. Survey your social landscape for any vices or superfluities that may be massing at the gates. Reach out to a brother who used to be a regular attendee at lodge but hasn't come in a while and see if he needs anything - a kind word, a dinner companion, or maybe just a ride.

Thanks, as always, for all that each of you contribute to Masonry in general and our lodge in particular. As custodians of our gentle Craft, ours is the solemn duty to preserve, expand and renew Freemasonry's potential to enrich the lives of men for generations to come.

With lots of opportunities to get involved, I hope to see you in lodge this month!

Sincerely and Fraternally,

Phillip Adam Smartt  
Worshipful Master  
[Master@AW22.org](mailto:Master@AW22.org)



# Quarry Gems





# June 2025

*June 7*

**11 AM | Called Communication  
Master Mason Degree  
GWMNM**

*June 12*

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

*June 19*

**Juneteenth  
No Catechism or Ritual School**

*June 24*

**Feast of St. John the Baptist Table Lodge  
Gadsby's Tavern**

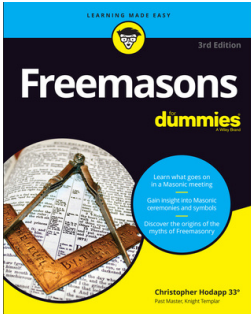
- Catechism Schools are every Thursday night at 6:30 PM and Saturday morning at 10:00 AM unless otherwise noted. Ritual Schools are every Thursday night (except on Stated or Called Communication nights) at 7:30 PM unless otherwise noted. All Masons are welcome.
- To follow the Master's personal Masonic schedule. Please view the Master@AW22.org shared Google Calendar.

# Ex Libris

## Freemasons for Dummies

Wor. Christopher L. Hodapp

Review by Wor. Adam Smartt



“A hundred years ago, this book wasn’t needed. 1 out of every 4 American men was a member of some kind of a fraternal organization, and 1 out of every 25 men was a Freemason.”

- Christopher Hodapp

You had to know this book would show up on the list eventually.

While there is a lifetime of reading materials available pertaining to Freemasonry, Masonic history, symbolism and its exoteric and esoteric teachings, I would argue that *Freemasons for Dummies* has a place on the shelves of any Masonic home library. It is one of the first books I recommend to a new Entered Apprentice or a man just beginning to come to dinners and trying to figure out what our gentle Craft is all about.

Don’t let the title fool you; *Dummies* offers fascinating insight into scores of Masonic topics. It traces our history (as best as can be known) back to operative lodges and the transition to speculative Masonry, citing the Regius Manuscript and Anderson’s Constitutions, respectively. It explores the use of symbols to convey moral and Masonic lessons, and how 18<sup>th</sup> century language and teachings are applicable in the 21<sup>st</sup> century world. It highlights the fraternity’s role in key points throughout our country’s history and how Masonry became, in the words of Bro. Dave Thomas, “the cornerstone of America.”

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# Ex Libris

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Following a fairly comprehensive “primer” section covering the history, phraseology and common themes the reader will encounter throughout the book, Hodapp lays out the progressive process of petitioning, joining and advancing through the Masonic degrees, as well as the optional “next steps” for those interested in exploring the many appendant bodies in the family of Freemasonry.

By dividing the chapters and sections into the broad steps a candidate-turned-brother takes in his Masonic journey, it allows the reader to follow in real time without getting ahead of what he’s learning in the degree conferrals and catechism practice. I strongly urge readers to progress only through what they have themselves already experienced, and then put the book down until they are ready to review the next step taken in their journey. While no “secret” information is revealed, the beauty and lasting impact of our ritual is in the participatory experience that a candidate only gets to see for the first time once in their life. I remember racing home after my own degree nights to jump back into the book and learn more about what I had just seen, heard and done.

In addition to being an excellent resource for the up-and-coming Mason experiencing everything for the first time, I find myself going back to *Dummies* somewhat frequently as a quick reference guide for some fact or figure in Masonic history, or for a plain-spoken way to describe the meaning and significance of a symbol or teaching.

*Freemasons for Dummies* is an enjoyable, informative read that you will likely find yourself revisiting over the years. In its clarity and accessible approach to a complex system centuries in the making, Hodapp’s contribution earns a spot alongside the authors and luminaries in any Masonic library.

# Perspectives of the Craft

## Initiation Well

Brother Jakob Zilinski

Senior Deacon, Alexandria-Washington Lodge No.22



Last summer I had the pleasure of visiting Portugal, specifically Lisbon, with Taylor and another friend of ours. One of our many stops was the small, seaside town of Sintra, about an hour outside of Lisbon. The entire town is a UNESCO World Heritage site and hosts Pena Palace, a Moorish castle, and the Palace of Sintra. But the location I found most exciting was Quinta da Regaleira, an almost otherworldly estate nestled on to the side of a mountain just outside of town.

The land was purchased by Carvalho Monteiro, a Brazilian-Portuguese businessman, in 1892. Monteiro, with the help of architect Luigi Manini, designed a hauntingly beautiful space with inspiration taken from almost every popular architectural style, particularly Gothic.

The main palace has more the appearance of a cathedral than a home, and although not as large as the other nearby palaces, its incredible detail is just as alluring. Throughout the grounds there are many meandering paths and outbuildings which are so overtaken by moss and other nature, they appear to be natural themselves. I particularly enjoyed the several military towers and walls which serve no purpose other than to excite curiosity.

In fact the whole complex reminded me of several old Star Trek episodes: a desolate world devoid of all meaning, inhabited

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# Perspectives of the Craft

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only by strangely humanoid aliens holding some kind of forgotten court. I suspect that was intentional. After all, Luigi Manini, the architect, was known for his theater set design.

The most interesting location on the estate is the Initiation Well. An 88-foot deep hole, with a spiral staircase, which leads to a small network of caverns below the property.

These caves split into three separate paths, one of which leads to an unfinished well. The other two lead to a grotto with several stone archways and waterfalls. Although the stonework appears to be natural, it was all artificially placed.



Monteiro was, apparently, obsessed with Masonry and other occult groups, especially the Knights Templar. The main well has 9 flights of stairs which reference Dante's Divine Comedy and Templar lore. Allegedly, several initiation ceremonies were held at the estate, which would culminate in the candidate descending the well armed only with a dagger. If the candidate could find their way out of the caves, they would, literally, find light. While I myself did not notice anything particularly Masonic in nature, I'm sure someone more versed in our appendant bodies would find meaning in the ornate designs found along the winding staircase.

The whole experience has made me think about the different ways our ritual and symbolism is expressed. The fact that ritual has

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# Perspectives of the Craft

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existed, and currently does exist, in ways that are very different from the apparent monolith of one's Grand Lodge is very exciting.

I believe that understanding the context in which our ritual exists is important for anyone raised to the Sublime Degree.

Heterogeneity is what makes our country great, our communities strong, and our lives interesting. My experience descending the Initiation Well has led me to believe that Masonry can embrace heterogeneity without sacrificing the regular ritual and symbolism that is held in the safe repository of the three craft lodge degrees.

So I say bring on the Cave Degrees, bring on the candle lit meetings, and, of course, bring on the Initiation Wells.

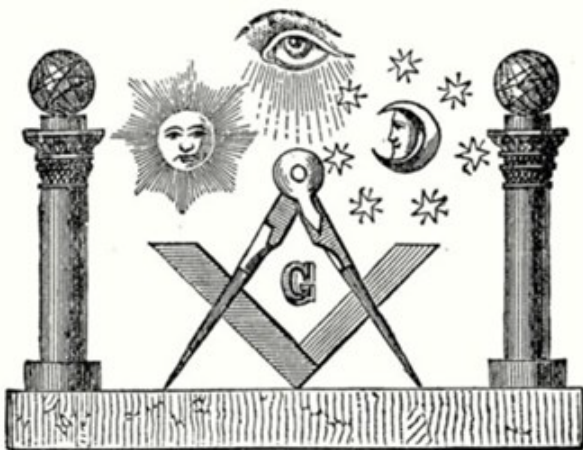


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# Bill of Fare

June 12

## Appetizer

Spinach Pie  
Lebanese Salad

## Entrée

Beef Shawarma  
Chicken Shawarma

## Side

Assorted Fruits and Cheeses

## Dessert

Baklava  
Rice Pudding

*Suggested Donation: \$10*

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

# Happy Masonic Birthday



Bro. James Madison Snyder, June 16, 73 Years

Bro. John Pipta, June 22, 61 Years

Bro. Charles William McElwee, June 4, 55 Years

Bro. William John Black, June 19, 52 Years

Bro. Rufus Baxter Griffith, Jr., June 23, 50 Years

Bro. Robert Blaine Baber, Jr., June 30, 50 Years

Bro. Bruce Harrison Phillips, June 3, 49 Years

Wor. Paul Hamlett Goforth, June 15, 44 Years

Wor. Larry Edward Williams, June 7, 42 Years

Bro. Donald Saunders Litman, June 9, 39 Years

Bro. Kevin Mark Kern, June 28, 36 Years

Bro. Joel Scott Armstrong, June 21, 30 Years

Bro. Douglas Jeffrey Snow, June 15, 29 Years

Bro. Christopher Norton, June 7, 28 Years

Bro. Robert William Rondeau, June 30, 28 Years

Bro. Pascal Bussiere, June 25, 27 Years

Bro. Luis Angel Vega, Jr., June 2, 26 Years

Bro. Matthew Roman, June 15, 21 Years

Wor. Michael Lee Bailey, June 1, 19 Years

Wor. David Gabriel Bella, June 7, 7 Years

Bro. Mark Mathew Adams, June 20, 6 Years

Wor. Nelo Allen Hamilton, Jr., June 20, 6 Years

Bro. Brian Robert Marvin, June 22, 2 Years

Bro. John Ray McDuffie, June 20, 1 Year

# 2025 Lodge Officers

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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

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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 Konschak - 2029

## Living Past Masters on the Rolls

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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.