



Lodge Bulletin

July 2025



www.AW22.org

Master's Message

Brethren,

I hope you all enjoyed a happy, healthy and safe Independence Day with friends and family. Reflecting on the occasion, I believe it to be a humbling honor that we serve as a link on that unbroken chain as temporary custodians of the great American experiment first forged by our brethren over two centuries ago.

June was an eventful month, and a sincere thanks to everyone who helped plan, attend and make our events such a success. In addition to our regularly scheduled stated communication, our annual Feast of St. John the Baptist was on June 24 at Gadsby's Tavern. The evening was made all the more memorable by the presence of visiting brethren from our neighboring lodges in Maryland and Virginia, as well as AW22 members who traveled from out of state to celebrate with us in the historic space.

On June 28, more than a dozen of our brethren, prospective members and friends and family attended our second ALIVE! food distribution event this year, bringing healthy food and resources to more than 200 families in our community. In my regard, labors like these *outside* the lodge truly define a fundamental part of what it means to be an AW22 Mason.

Our travels resume in July, with two fraternal visits planned in the coming weeks, first to our neighbors across the hall at Andrew Jackson Lodge No. 120, followed by a special opportunity to witness a Master Mason degree conferral by our brethren from Charles H. Wesley Lodge No. 147, Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Maryland, held in the North Lodge Room of our building. If you plan to attend the latter visit, please RSVP with our Senior Warden by July 12 so we can provide an accurate head count in advance.

For many, this is the season of vacations, family events and opportunities to rest and recharge. Please travel safely, refresh responsibly, enjoy time with friends and loved ones and, if within the length of your cable tow, join us at an event this month!

Sincerely and Fraternaly,

Phillip Adam Smartt
Worshipful Master
Master@AW22.org





July 2025

July 10

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

July 15

**7:30 PM
Esoteric Corner
Virtual**

July 17

**6:00 PM | Fellowship Dinner
7:30 PM | Stated Communication
Fraternal Visit
Andrew Jackson Lodge No. 120
GWMNM**

July 26

**11 AM
Fraternal Visit
Charles H. Wesley Lodge No. 147
GWMNM**

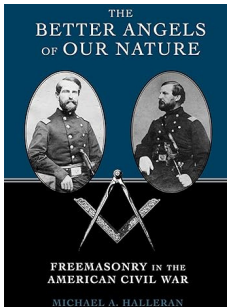
- Catechism Schools are every Thursday night at 6:30 PM and Saturday morning at 10:00 AM unless otherwise noted. Ritual Schools are every Thursday night (except on Stated or Called Communication nights) at 7:30 PM unless otherwise noted. All Masons are welcome.
- To follow the Master's personal Masonic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

Ex Libris

The Better Angels of Our Nature: Freemasonry in the American Civil War

MW Michael A. Halleran

Review by Wor. Adam Smartt



“If that is Masonry, I will take some of it myself.”

- Bro. William McKinley

Perhaps the most well known story of Freemasonry during the American Civil War is set at the battle of Gettysburg. Confederate General Lewis A. Armistead - who, a decade prior, was raised to the Sublime Degree at Alexandria-Washington Lodge No. 22 - was mortally wounded during a charge on Union lines. As he fell, Armistead made a Masonic plea for assistance, which was perceived by Union Captain Henry H. Bingham, also a Mason. Bingham then rushed into the fray to give aid and comfort in his “enemy” brother’s final moments. Today, visitors to the battlefield can see the powerful moment enshrined in a monument at the site.

Except it most likely never happened.

Citing primary sources that offer conflicting accounts of the purported encounter in its opening chapter, The Better Angels of our Nature then goes on to document - often in great historical detail - verified instances throughout the war where Masonic bonds transcended the lines of battle.

Across multiple campaigns, battles and sieges, Masonic ties fostered moments of comfort, compassion and charity, bringing a new dimension to a war that pitted brother against brother.

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Ex Libris

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This thoroughly researched and heavily cited book contains multiple accounts of Freemasonry serving as a Divine Ark wafting over a sea of troubles and the horrors of war. There are tales of towns and cities completely razed, save for the Masonic temple guarded by a lone sentry assigned by the commander of the invading army. Widows in looted homes had their possessions restored when Masonic regalia was discovered among the bounty. Meetings were held and degrees conferred with the sideline benches mottled in hues of both gray and blue.

In one memorable instance, a young staff officer in the Union Army witnessed a field surgeon tending to captured Confederate soldiers and giving money from his own pocket to some of the penniless prisoners. When asked about the peculiar behavior, the surgeon explained that he knew the beneficiaries to be destitute brother Masons and was compelled to contribute to their relief. Being so impressed by this act of charity, eight months later the young soldier petitioned Hiram Lodge No. 21 in Winchester, Virginia. Found to be worthy, Union officer (and future president) William McKinley was initiated, passed and raised in that Southern lodge.

The Better Angels of our Nature reminds us that even in those most dire times that threatened to sever a nation in twain, the bonds of brotherhood and the responsibilities sewn into solemn obligations can and must overcome.

Note: I recommend this book primarily for Master Masons. While it was written by a Mason (a Past Grand Master, no less) who is mindful of his obligations, there are certain accounts and observations offered by contemporaneous witnesses that may be more familiar and understood by those who have been raised to the Sublime Degree.

Perspectives of the Craft

Masonic Astronomy: The Importance of Life, Death, and Rebirth

Brother Aaron Habibipour

Alexandria-Washington Lodge No.22

Brothers, this felt like the right time to reflect—having just celebrated the Feast of St. John and passed through the Summer Solstice.



One of the oldest myths in most human cultures is the birth, death and resurrection of the sun. From Osiris to Mithras to Christ, many religions and mystery schools across the world have encoded the turning of the heavens into rites of passage, rituals of transformation, and symbols meant to awaken the soul. As Masons, we inherit that same symbolic framework—woven subtly through our calendar, our allegories, and our work.

In late Rome, the feast of Sol Invictus, the “Unconquered Sun,” was celebrated at the Winter Solstice. Though the sun had reached its lowest ebb, it was not defeated—it would rise again. Sol Invictus symbolized faith in renewal, the eternal cycle of darkness giving way to light.

In the Mithraic Mysteries, the image of Mithra slaying the bull is rife with astronomical symbols, and Mithra himself carries a birthday of December 25th, and is depicted as riding across the sky on a chariot.

Christianity, too, carries this legacy. Its liturgical calendar follows the heavens, and the story of Christ’s ministry, death, and

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Perspectives of the Craft

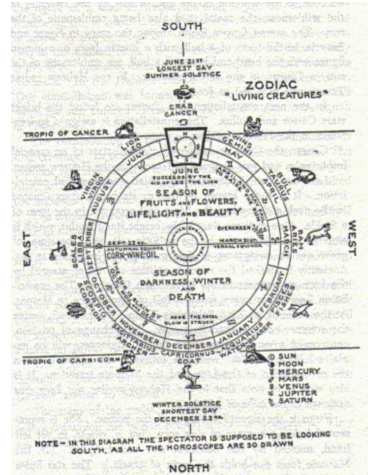
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resurrection mirrors the sun's own passage through the year. Lent and Advent (practices of repentance and preparation, respectively) come at key points in the year that line up to both the Winter Solstice and the Spring Equinox.

In Masonry, just after the Summer Solstice, we mark the Feast of St. John the Baptist. Every December, just after the Winter Solstice, we honor St. John the Evangelist. It is not coincidence that our patron Saint's days fall in these times of the year—they are polar anchors of the solar cycle. The Baptist stands at the height of light; the Evangelist marks the quiet return of light from the year's deepest darkness.

Between the equinoxes - autumn, summer, and spring - the sun traces its arc across the heavens. In Masonic symbolism, this "Royal Arch" represents the celestial vault, with the Summer Solstice at its apex. The entire year is represented in the lodge - with the seats of the Worshipful Master, Junior and Senior Wardens, and the empty station in the North. This isn't just cardinal directions or the allegory of sunrise and sunset - the lodge is also a layout of the astronomical year.

Let's compare the solar calendar to this image of a lodge. If you overlay them, you will notice that the officer positions line up to the equinoxes and solstices of the calendar. The Worshipful Master and Senior Warden mark the plane of the equinoxes (the periods

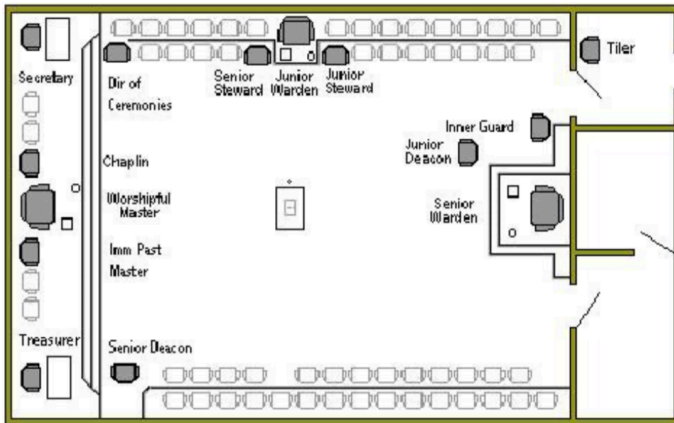


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Perspectives of the Craft

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of equal night and day) and the Junior Warden and the empty seat in the North represent the solstices. Ambulation within the lodge follows the course of the year - always moving clockwise.



Carl Jung wrote that symbols endure because they speak the language of the soul, and that deep down inside, these symbols and stories are a primordial inheritance passed down from our most ancient origins. The enduring myth of life, death, and rebirth isn't just a tale—it's a mirror. Every Mason walks the path of the sun: beginning in darkness, laboring in twilight, and rising toward the Light. These symbols and rituals orient us to the season of our own journey. Are we standing in the Light, bathed in clarity? Or are we, for a time, in the darkness of the North, waiting for light to return?

Understanding the symbolism in Masonic astronomy is not just cheesy esoteric babble, it's a part of a system that teaches us how to work the Craft. The sun's journey reminds us that progress is not linear—it is cyclical and never ending. Our task is not to avoid the dark but to pass through it consciously. We are not building stone temples, but living ones—crafted through time, transformation, and awareness.

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Perspectives of the Craft

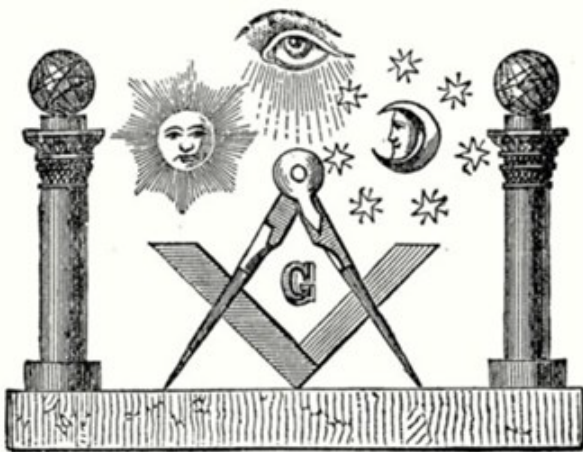
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As we move from one St. John to the next, let us not only mark time on the calendar, but reflect on where we stand beneath the arch. What light have we gained? What darkness must we confront? What seeds are we planting now that will rise with the returning sun?



Learn how you can make
a tax deductible
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Bill of Fare

July 10

Appetizer

Homestyle Potato Salad

Entrée

Pulled BBQ Chicken
Sliced Beef Tenderloin
Slider Rolls

Side

Sliced Watermelon

Dessert

Mini Cannolis

Suggested Donation: \$10

Please RSVP to reservations@AW22.org

Happy Masonic Birthday



MW Robert Patrick Conley, July 12, 43 Years

Bro. David Lloyd Jobes, July, 40 Years

Bro. Jeffrey Allan Shockey, July 7, 37 Years

Bro. Steven Joseph Nace, July 20, 36 Years

RW Michael Robert Aulicino, July 7, 27 Years

Wor. Frank Stanley Skwirut, July 17, 25 Years

Bro. Jeremy Jacob James, July 19, 24 Years

Wor. Heber Charles Willis, III, July 28, 22 Years

Bro. Jeffrey James Mayle, July 12, 21 Years

Bro. Michael Brian Mosteller, July 25, 19 Years

Bro. Mauricio Alberto Ambriz, July 29, 18 Years

Bro. Mark Edward Brown, July 15, 17 Years

Bro. Jorge Ignacio Ortiz, July 15, 17 Years

Bro. Michael Thomas Phillips, July 15, 17 Years

Bro. Ebenezer Kamakee Paikai, July 16, 16 Years

Wor. Robert Thomas Weston, July 16, 16 Years

Bro. Evgueniy Georgiev Todorov, July 17, 10 Years

Bro. Ronald Earl Craft, Jr., July 7, 7 Years

Bro. Christopher Michael Woychak, July 27, 4 Years

Bro. Elin Galev Kanchev, July 20, 1 Year



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 Konschak - 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.