



Lodge Bulletin

October 2025



www.AW22.org

Master's Message

Brethren,

It's hard to believe that October is here already, but with shorter days, cooler temperatures, and the prospect of miniature ghouls, ghosts and sugar-fueled specters soon appearing on our doorsteps there is no doubt that the final chapters of 2025 have begun. There is still plenty left to do, however, and many ways to stay active in the coming weeks.

Our stated communication is this Thursday, October 9 and it is one that I have been looking forward to. For dinner we have a full Oktoberfest-themed menu including pretzel bites, chicken schnitzel, Bavarian sausages and apple strudel for dessert. Following a brief presentation by a guest from DeMolay International to begin our meeting, the current lodge officers will retire to the sidelines as our Past Masters assume their stations and places to conduct the annual Past Masters Night.

On October 16, the recently introduced Beehive discussion group will hold a roundtable symposium on the Eleusinian Mysteries; all are invited for an evening of Masonic education and engaging discussion. Rounding out the month, there will be a called communication to hear the return of two Entered Apprentice catechisms and confer the Fellowcraft degree. If within the length of your cable tow, I invite you to attend and support both our brethren seeing the fruits of their labor in memorizing the catechism and receiving their second degree.

As schedules begin to fill with end of year plans and holiday happenings, I hope you will find the time to visit with your brethren either within the lodge or without. This is a great month to bring an interested guest to our fellowship dinner, a brother you haven't seen in a while to a meeting, or get to know some of the many prospects we have preparing to knock at the door.

I look forward to seeing you at lodge!

Sincerely and Fraternally,

Phillip Adam Smartt
Worshipful Master
Master@AW22.org



Quarry Gems





October 2025

October 9

6:30 PM | Fellowship Dinner

7:30 PM | Stated Communication

Past Masters Night

GWMNM

October 10

6:00 PM | College of Past Masters

GWMNM

October 16

6:00 PM | Beehive Discussion Group

GWMNM

October 23

7:30 PM | Called Communication: Fellowcraft Degree

GWMNM

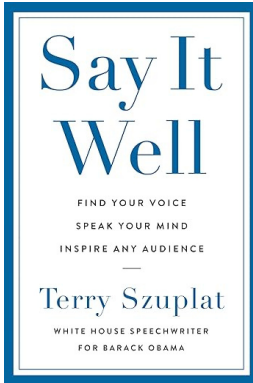
- Catechism Schools are every Thursday night at 6:30 PM and Saturday morning at 10:00 AM unless otherwise noted. Ritual Schools are every Thursday night (except on Stated or Called Communication nights) at 7:30 PM unless otherwise noted. All Masons are welcome.
- To follow the Master's personal Masonic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

Ex Libris

Say It Well: Find Your Voice, Speak Your Mind, Inspire Any Audience

Terry Szuplat

Review by Wor. Adam Smartt



“Wherever you find a sentence musically worded, of true rhythm and melody in the words, there is something deep and good in the meaning, too.”

- Samuel Taylor Coleridge

Terry Szuplat is one of the longest-serving and most highly accomplished communicators in White House history, serving on both the National Security

Council and as deputy director of the White House Speechwriting Office. He was also, by his own admission, an incredibly poor public speaker.

Szuplat recalls that in decades of writing for others, internalizing and reproducing their unique voices, he gradually lost his own. Say It Well documents his journey to discover that voice, a transformative process that took him from an anxiety plagued, shaky orator (on those occasions when he couldn't find an excuse to decline a speaking invitation), to one of the most celebrated and sought after speakers, trainers and keynote presenters in the nation.

Effective, compelling speech - whether on the campaign trail, corporate retreat or charity gala - is alchemical in nature. It is the careful arrangement of words and ideas into a precise mixture that blends both art and science and, when combined correctly, results in a symphonic composition greater than the component notes.

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Ex Libris

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Documenting what became his own process, Szuplat makes early distinction between the written and spoken word. The most eloquent paragraphs ever to grace a page do not necessarily translate to soaring rhetoric. A speech, he notes, is a performance.

Divided into logical building blocks, the author offers key tips and examples of the elements required to construct an excellent beginning (“Have ‘em at Hello,” “Be a Uniter”), middle (“Talk Like a Human,” “Make It Sing”) and conclusion (“Tell the Truth,” “The Only Way to End a Speech”).

In addition to lessons taught from his own experience, interspersed throughout the book are examples of remarks, eulogies, graduation speeches and more that have gone viral in the social media age. Through interviews and analyses, Szuplat dissects the elements of each that spoke to viewers across the globe and sent them racing through inboxes, memes and late night monologues.

From wedding toasts to memorial remembrances to Masonic presentations, Say It Well is an entertaining, valuable resource for both veteran speakers as well as those still searching for their voice.

Learn more about the Alexandria-Washington Lodge No. 22 Foundation, Inc. and how you can partner in the preservation of our storied history for future generations of Masons.



Learn how you can make
a tax-deductible
donation today.



Perspectives of the Craft

Witchcraft, or Which Craft? Similarities between Freemasonry & Witchcraft Observed

Brother Jonathan J. Siudmak

At first glance, Freemasonry and Witchcraft may appear very different. One meets in a lodge echoing the ideals of the past to perpetuate them into the future, the other circles under the moon, communing with nature, pentacles and athames at the ready. Yet those involved in one another have long noted uncanny parallels. Both paths are deeply ritualistic and symbolic, using formal openings and closings, secret language, and staged initiations to guide members inward. Even phrases overlap: expressions like “So mote it be” and “As above, so below” were used in Masonic lodges long before they became staples of modern magickal circles. This reflects a shared emphasis on structure and intention. In both traditions, every meeting begins and ends with ceremony, drawing a spiritual boundary between the mundane and the sacred, the brotherhood and the world itself.

In a modern witchcraft ritual, the High Priest (a term York Rite Masons know well) or Priestess casts a circle to mark off a holy space. This usually involves tracing or visualizing a boundary, often aligned with the four cardinal points (sound familiar?), and calling upon deities or guardians. As one pagan writer explains, the Coven leader declares, “Let it be known that the circle is about to be cast. All who enter the circle may do so in perfect love and perfect trust.” In effect, the circle confines positive energy within and keeps distractions or unwanted influences out. Ritual tools (candles, an altar, an athame, etc.) are then arranged inside this circular temple.

Freemasonry has an analogous tradition: before any work begins, the lodge is formally opened via ritual. A process begins to ensure

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that the lodge room is properly prepared and the doors are secure; prayers and declarations ensue, transforming the room into that symbolizing King Solomon's Temple. When the Master declares the lodge "open," the physical space is set apart for sacred purpose. Just as a Coven defines the ritual area, the Masonic opening ceremony consecrates the lodge. By bookending each meeting with these rites of opening and closing, both orders repeatedly teach members to leave the ordinary world behind and focus on the mysteries at hand. Then, once business has concluded, the sacred space is closed with a charge so that Brethren may "mix again with the world."

Both Freemasons and witches communicate through a special symbolic vocabulary. Masonic ritual is famously called "a beautiful and profound system of morality, veiled in allegories and illustrated by symbols." The tools of the stonemason become metaphors for ethical lessons, and passwords and gestures affirm membership and status. Likewise, Witchcraft is rich in archetypal imagery: the pentacle or pentagram, the cauldron, the Green Man, the Moon Goddess, and so on. These symbols represent natural and spiritual principles, which when applied to life, can be used for the both the betterment of mankind and of the self.

Above all, the language of both traditions teaches by story. In Masonry, lectures and ritual teach moral truths via historic allegory. In witchcraft, mythic stories of goddesses and gods, the seasons, and the Great Rite teach deeper life lessons. As Freemasonry texts emphasize, these symbols are not arbitrary: they "teach moral and ethical lessons, such as the four cardinal virtues (Fortitude, Prudence, Temperance, and Justice) and the principles of 'Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth.'"

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Perspectives of the Craft

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Witchcraft, for its part, encodes its ethics in symbols like the pentacle's five points representing earth, air, fire, water, and spirit and in maxims like the Wiccan Rede: "An it harm none, do what ye will." Or perhaps rephrased, "Every human being has a claim upon your kind offices. Do good unto all."

Both orders also use ascending degrees to mark a member's deepening responsibility and insight. Early degrees lay foundational ethics and basic knowledge; higher degrees bring more profound symbolism (mortality in Masonry, sacred union in Witchcraft). Participation in these degrees, or rites, is meant to be transformative, transcending into the real work that happens outside the lodge or circle. Ritual is valuable only insofar as it inspires daily living in accordance with higher ideals. Each Brother is charged to "walk and act" with the virtues learned in everyday life.

Wiccans likewise put ethics at the heart of practice not limited to the Threefold Law, or the belief that the energy one sends out returns threefold. Together, these guide a Witch to act with good intention and mindfulness. Ritual spells and charms are therefore not used selfishly, and communal rites often celebrate gratitude and care for both natural and spiritual balance.

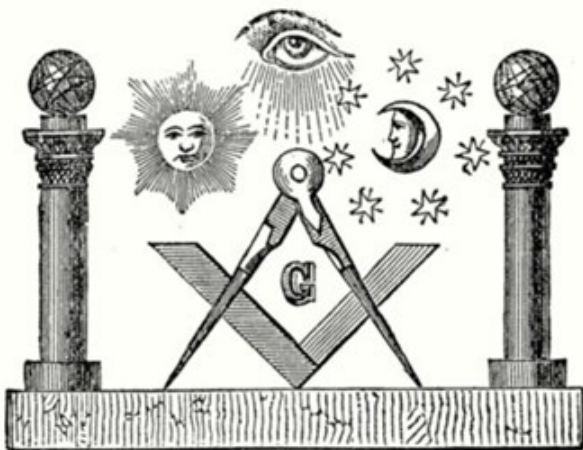
In both paths, then, the emphasis is on intent. Ritual form, opening and closing ceremonies, degrees, symbols; all used as a framework to shape the mind and heart. The true "magick" or Masonic Light comes when members internalize the teachings and grow into the best versions of themselves.

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Perspectives of the Craft

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Ultimately, both Freemasonry and Witchcraft invite adherents to live intentionally. They ask: “Who will I be, and what will I build?” Through ritual structure and symbolic language, each path offers answers rooted in virtue and purpose. A Mason dedicates himself to friendship, morality, and brotherly love inspired by a divine source, whereas a Witch dedicates themselves to loving, harm-none intent and harmony with the natural order. In this light, the parallels between lodge and circle are not coincidence but an observation in humanity’s persistent knowledge on how to meet, act, and part in ways which benefit the world around them.



Bill of Fare

October 9

Appetizer

Bavarian Pretzel Bites with Homemade Beer Cheese
Potato Pancakes
Caesar Salad

Entrée

Chicken Schnitzel
Wurst Sampler: Traditional German Sausages
Sauerkraut & Red Cabbage

Side

Mac and Cheese
Warm German Potato Salad

Dessert

Apple Strudel
New York Cheesecake

Suggested Donation: \$10

Please RSVP to reservations@AW22.org

Happy Masonic Birthday



Bro. Donald Ray Newman, October 29, 52 Years

Bro. Elmer Michael Smith, October 16, 47 Years

Bro. Michael Nicholas Pocalyko, October 19, 43 Years

Bro. Thomas Clifton Etter, Jr., October 30, 41 Years

RW Paul Martin Bessel, October 28, 38 Years

Bro. Claire Victor Tusch, October 11, 36 Years

Bro. Edward Eric Lamb, October 24, 34 Years

Bro. Jay Steven Hambacher, October 11, 32 Years

Wor. Philip John Hays, October 18, 32 Years

Bro. Geoffrey Kyle Alban Dunaway, October 27, 32 Years

RW Philip Niemann Rhodes, October 18, 31 Years

RW Michael Paul Bible, October 7, 30 Years

Bro. Romulo Paredes Maliksi, October 7, 30 Years

Bro. Kurt Allen Gustafson, Jr., October 25, 30 Years

Bro. William Harvey Clore, III, October 4, 29 Years

Bro. Louis Kobus, Jr., October 19, 29 Years

Bro. Jonathan Perry Kruger, October 19, 29 Years

Bro. Raymond Buford McClure, October 19, 29 Years

Bro. Ryan Joseph McCombie October 19, 29 Years

MW Donald Ellis Strehle, October 19, 29 Years

Bro. Lewis Buchanan Gorley, October 22, 24 Years

Bro. Kurt Lee Langenwalter, October 15, 18 Years

Bro. Nestor Fabian Villanueva, October 15, 18 Years

Br. Jason Charles Machado, October 6, 16 Years

Happy Masonic Birthday



Bro. Richard Lance Stubblefield, October 14, 15 Years

Bro. Theodore Vagias, October 14, 15 Years

Bro. Craig Martin Arndt, October 28, 15 Years

Bro. Jace Christen Harrill, October 19, 6 Years

Bro. Sean Phillip O'Shea, October 3, 5 Years

Bro. Chris Gared Sterling, October 3, 5 Years

Bro. Iliya Antonio Stanoev, October 27, 5 Years

Bro. Luis Enrique Fereira, October 26, 2 Years

Bro. Nicholas John Mayberry, October 26, 2 Years

Bro. Jon Edward Wulfekuehler, October 26, 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. Naaren Juloori - Junior Deacon

Bro. Thomas Harrison Lynch - Chaplain

Bro. Brian Mark Williams - Senior 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.