Worshipful Master: Joseph Felix Editor: Henry Spomer, PM

Edition: April, 2022

**James Knox Polk:** 1795-1849, 11th President, 1845 – 1849: Born November 2, 1795, in [Pineville, NC](https://www.google.com/search?client=firefox-b-1-d&channel=cus5&sxsrf=APq-WBtMycmK43IvQ5ja_IT6x9a1WSxlMQ:1647762995629&q=Pineville,+North+Carolina&stick=H4sIAAAAAAAAAOPgE-LQz9U3MDFKM1QCs_JMyk20xLKTrfQLUvMLclKBVFFxfp5VUn5R3iJWyYDMvNSyzJycVB0Fv_yikgwF58Si_JzMvMQdrIy72Jk4GACskhHMUgAAAA&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwjr45zAm9T2AhXgDjQIHfSOD7kQmxMoAHoECCYQAg), Died: June 15, 1849, Nashville, TN. Initiated on June 5, 1820 & made a Mason September 4, 1820, in Columbia Lodge No. 31, F. & A.M., Columbia, TN. Polk had little formal education during his childhood due to his health problems but his mother obtained tutors to teach him. He graduated first in the class of 1818 at the University of North Carolina despite not going to school until he was 17 years old. Polk was not a healthy child. It's hard to say exactly why but some suspect that it was a combination of two factors. First, his family really difficult and long journey moving to Tennessee when he was 11 apparently took a heavy toll on Polk. Secondly, his strict upbringing instilled an overly-hard work ethic that some believe even contributed to his death.

After building a successful law practice in [Tennessee](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tennessee), Polk was elected to [its state legislature](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tennessee_Legislature) in 1823 and then to the [United States House of Representatives](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_House_of_Representatives) in 1825, becoming a strong supporter of Andrew Jackson. After serving as chairman of the [Ways and Means Committee](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ways_and_Means_Committee), he became Speaker of the House in 1835, the only person to have served both as Speaker and U.S. president. Polk left Congress to run for governor of Tennessee, winning in 1839 but losing in 1841 and 1843. He was a [dark horse](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dark_horse) candidate in the [1844 presidential election](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1844_United_States_presidential_election) as the [Democratic Party](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Democratic_Party_(United_States)) nominee; he entered his party's convention as a potential nominee for [vice president](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vice_President_of_the_United_States) but emerged as a compromise to head the ticket when no presidential candidate could secure the necessary two-thirds majority. In the general election, Polk defeated [Henry Clay](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Henry_Clay) of the rival [Whig Party](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Whig_Party_(United_States)).

As President he oversaw the largest territorial expansion in American history— over a million square miles of land—acquired through a treaty with England and war with Mexico and making the United States a nation poised to become a world power, but with sectional divisions gravely exacerbated, setting the stage for the [Civil War](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_Civil_War). Polk came into the presidency with a focused political agenda and a clear set of convictions. He was the most successful President since George Washington in the accomplishment of his goals. Polk left office after one term, fulfilling a campaign pledge he made in 1844.





Greetings to all brothers! We hope this edition finds you all doing well and we wish you and yours good health and happiness.

Check out our Web Page at mm56.org. It has posts and new Masonic Education articles on it.

**From Our Worshipful Master:**

**My Wage**

**“I bargained with Life for a penny,**

**And Life would pay no more,**

**However, I begged at evening**

**When I counted my scanty store.**

**For Life is a just employer,**

**He gives you what you ask,**

**But once you have set the wages,**

**Why, you must bear the task.**

**I worked for a menial’s hire,**

**Only to learn, dismayed,**

**That any wage I had asked of Life,**

**Life would have willingly paid.”**

**-Jessie B. Rittenhouse**

For the past few months, I have put forward a few poems in the newsletter. It is my hope that each one has evoked some thought and reflection based on your life and your place within our fraternity. I do not claim to be a great sage however, as Socrates said, “the unexamined life is not worth living” and I think that it is in the “reflection” that the “magic” of personal growth lay. For as we grow in our lives we gain the foresight and aptitude to progress ourselves, our families, our fraternities / communities, and our world, if we choose.

**From our Senior Warden:**

Brothers, as we move into spring, we are already a quarter of the way through 2022, we are going to be planning some events for the lodge. We are planning on practicing and preforming all 3 degrees along with some more social activities. Please reach out if you would like parts in the degrees as we are really looking to expand our depth at all parts and have more people involved. Preforming these rituals for new and upward moving brothers is a big part of why we are here.

 Also if you have any suggestions for social events, please contact myself or any officer.

**From our Junior Warden:**

Brothers, in today’s crazy world it is important to remember that while we all come from different walks of life with our own thoughts and feelings, shaped by our experiences and environment, we are all On The Level.  We need to always strive to understand each other’s differences, appreciate them, and respect them.   While we are all individually different we are one with each other in Masonry.

"We Masons are among the fortunate ones who are taught to meet together with others opposing convictions or competitive ideas and yet respect each other as Brothers.” – *Author Unknown*

**Know your Lodge Officers:**

Last month we heard about our SW & JW, while this month we heard about our SD & JD

Carl S. Warren, SD



I am a Tucson native and 3rd generation Mason and have been a member of Marion McDaniel Lodge #56 since October of 2019. I have been married to my wonderful wife, Valerie, for 22 years and we have 2 boys, Anthony (21) and Nicholas (18).  I graduated from the University of Arizona in 1999 with a bachelors degree in Finance. I have worked for Wells Fargo Advisors for over 11 years as a financial advisor and CFP professional.  In my free time, I enjoy watching my son play baseball as well as the AZ Diamondbacks and UofA.  I also enjoy golfing, cars, and collecting and drinking good bourbon!

Tyler Rivas, JD



I was born and raised in southern California. At the age of 18 I joined the United States Air Force (USAF) as a Security Forces apprentice and arrived in Tucson. After 10 years of active-duty military service, I accepted a job offer as a Deputy Sheriff of Pima County and was assigned to various patrol districts. In October 2018, I was assigned to the Criminal Investigations Division Burglary Unit. In September 2019 I was assigned to the Fraud Unit where I am currently serving as a Detective, Detective Training Officer, and FBI Anti-Fraud Task force member. I was appointed and currently serve as Treasurer of the Pima County Deputy Sheriff’s Association. I have a 9 year old son to which we enjoy camping and off-roading together.

**Updates/Reminders:**

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*The Lodge has Raffle Tickets for three great prizes in the Jim Click Tucson Millions drawing. The offered prizes are: A new 2022 Ford Maverick Lariat Hybrid, two round-trip first class airline tickets to anywhere in the world or $5,000 cash. Tickets are $25 each or 5 for $100. The lodge gets 50% of the sale for their own charity while the other 50% goes to Arizona Masonic Foundation for Children. Yes 100% goes to our Masonic Charities. Anyone can purchase tickets and the funds raised stays within the Masonic Fraternity. Please contact Henry Spomer to purchase tickets. 1papapie@comcast/net or text @ (520) 661-2021*

Each month before the stated meeting dinner the WM with his line officers have scheduled meetings with different groups for presentation of the groups’ progress and updates on activities. Be sure to check the schedule and be prepared to brief the line officers. So if you are on a committee or have been assigned a job please look at the schedule to see if you are on the agenda to make an updated report to the line officers. **The April 4th meeting is with the Lodge Line Officers.**

Exciting times ahead many things are happening in your Lodge. Come join us as we move into the future. Let us all come together and take a small job to make our lodge stronger. See you in Lodge.

**Dinner:** Dinner at 6:30. Next meeting is April 4, 2022. The menu is: Pulled Pork Sandwiches, Cole Slaw and Desert. There will be an option for those who can’t eat pork. Please let Henry Spomer know by March 31st  if you will attend the dinner so we will have enough food for everyone. Email [1papapie@comcast.net](mailto:1papapie@comcast.net)

**Helping Hands**: If you or you know of one of our Lodge Brothers who has fallen on hard times and needs help with his dues or help in general please let WM Joe Felix or Secretary Dave Brown know. The lodge and Brothers are there to help you. Please let someone know so we can help.

If you would like to participate in a degree, please contact, Josh Sticht at [joshsticht@gmail.com](mailto:joshsticht@gmail.com). Brethren if we are going to do better degree work and also expand the number of members who can so parts in the degrees we must step up and let Josh know. He will work to schedule practices so we become better than what we are now.

**Officers for 2022**

Worshipful Master--Joseph Felix Senior Warden--Josh Sticht Junior Warden--Matt Hedrick PM

Secretary--David Brown PM Treasurer--Pat Zech PM Chaplin—Henry Spomer PM

Sr. Deacon—Carl Warren Jr. Deacon—Tyler Rivas Tyler—Sam Talvy

Sr. Steward—Thomas Christopherson Jr. Steward—Joe Santistaban PM Marshall--- Stephen Lamb

1 yr. Trustee--Jeff Horton PM 2 yr. Trustee--Jim Wild PM 3 yr. Trustee--Gordon Beatty

**Educationally:**

The Unspeakable Masonic WordBy W. Bro. Jay Hochberg

When we speak of "Masonic education," we are needlessly redundant. Freemasonry is education, simultaneously moral instruction, spiritual enlightenment and intellectual growth so that a man may come to know - and improve - himself. But this isn't supposed to be a solitary activity; Freemasonry also is a brotherhood. The Master Mason Lecture explains the symbolism of the Beehive: "He who will not endeavor to add to the common stock of knowledge may be deemed a drone in the hive of nature, a useless member of society, and unworthy of the care and protection of Masons." Together the brethren seek "that which was lost." What was lost? Truth. It is that search after Truth that makes Freemasonry philosophical, and where there is a love of wisdom, education is the act of courtship.

Because Freemasonry's teachings intentionally address the fundamental and perpetual curiosities of man, it can accurately be said that it is education without limit in both appeal and scope. Truly any wholesome field of study or discipline intersects somewhere along Freemasonry's path of learning and much of Masonic teaching coincides with the Humanities. Masonry reveals itself through ritual. These centuries-old ceremonies are a framework, or more accurately, a map that each Freemason may follow in his search for Truth. To summarize just one aspect of this process, **as an Apprentice, the newly initiated Mason is taught to subdue his passions while letting the Four Cardinal Virtues guide him toward candid self-awareness.** From this ceremony one finds commonality with Plato and Aquinas. The former saw these virtues as a recipe for a perfect society; the latter adapted the virtues for the betterment of an individual's attitudes, values and behavior. Next, as a more experienced Mason called a **Fellowcraft, he is shown the Seven Liberal Arts and Sciences: Grammar, Rhetoric, Logic, Arithmetic, Geometry, Music and Astronomy** guide the Masonic student as they had the thinkers who gave Western civilization its Renaissance, Reformation and Enlightenment, with all the culture contained therein. A proper understanding of the Arts and Sciences empowers Masonic man to make his mind the rational master of his primal Five Senses of hearing, seeing, feeling, smelling and tasting, and so this progress builds upon the Platonic-Thomist foundation. In the **Third Degree of Freemasonry, the Master Mason is sufficiently aware of his place in the universe so as to fear no danger, not even death itself.** Ultimately, upon exiting the Holy of Holies for the final time, the Master Mason goes gamely "into that good night" knowing that there is no sting of death and no victory of the grave, but only eternal life.

We've dubbed Education "The Unspeakable Masonic Word" because it seems like no one ever talks about it. In my experience, research lodges, study groups and the like are treated like red light districts where only the furtive venture in search of the forbidden. So at first you're pretty much on your own. To get started, think about what you most desire to know about Freemasonry, and then go find the answers. Easy? No, but it shouldn't be. Depending on the subject, a researcher can spend months looking for a long out-of-print book; even years can pass before inadvertently coming across a needed factoid in an unexpected source. Naturally the internet delivers limitless information, but - even as with books - one must exercise discriminating choice. Again, let the ritual be your map. Choose an unfamiliar word, an odd phrase, a seemingly antiquated idea. Then define it. Identify its Masonic significance and apply that meaning to a broader context of how it could benefit others; and then translate that idea into your own words so that you take possession and internalize it. Once it is yours, it is there as a tool for use in your growth, and it's there for good. Repeat the process, as needed, for life.

That education is interwoven in Freemasonry is a reality that predates modern Masonry itself. In the Old Charges - the dozens of manuscripts penned over the course of more than three centuries prior to the start in 1717 of the Masonic Order we know today - are found clear procedures on how new members of the building trade were to be schooled in their craft over long spans of time. In the Halliwell Manuscript, believed written in the 14th century and the earliest of these documents, are found the "Fifteen Articles for the Master Mason," including:

* 1. He must take apprentices for seven years, his craft to learn.
* 2. He must be both fair and free and teach by his might.
* 3. He shall not disparage his fellow's work.
* 4. He must teach his apprentice.

Nor is there anything extraneous about the grave consequence awaiting the unskilled, untested, and unlucky operative builder in the ancient world. The pre-Biblical Babylonian ruler Hammurabi set down a legal code that included:

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| ***If a builder has built a house for a man and has not made his work sound, so that the house he has made falls down and causes the death of the owner of the house, that builder shall be put to death. If it causes the death of the son of the owner of the house, they shall kill the son of that builder.*** |

Clearly the importance of education in the building arts is indisputable. (Remember that the funny-looking cap you wore at graduation is called a mortarboard.) Today Freemasonry's instruction is all presented in allegory and symbolism, but the education is no less crucial to the Speculative Mason's life. Tragically few seem to understand or want to understand, and this power goes neglected in the quotidian realities of contemporary Masonry. Why? Because it is hard work! In mastering his Craft, Masonic Man spends his life relentlessly scrutinizing himself, the condition of his fellow man and of the world, and the role of the Great Architect of the Universe in it all. It is not by accident that the hard labor of constructing in stone is the metaphor through which Masonry's instruction is imparted. Nor is it by chance that the seeker of the degrees of Freemasonry is repeatedly tested for his willingness to proceed further. While the teachings of Freemasonry are universal - "Every human being has a claim upon your kind offices." - it was never intended for every human being to enter its temples, and yet its doors have been flung open for many years allowing practically any man to enter. Consequently, the libraries that once were busy beehives have been converted to other, more simple purposes, their books locked away in storage, forgotten. (Indeed the word "temple" itself, as in a place for conTEMPLation, has been abandoned for the monotonous "Masonic center.") Simultaneously, the discussions that once compelled Masons to reconsider their opinions, to re-examine their very lives, and to improve their world have been replaced by charity walk-a-thons and other activities that, while helpful, should be entrusted to our neighbors in the Lions, Kiwanis and Elks organizations. While organizing and staging a charity fundraiser is a big job, it is child's play compared to the vital challenge of metabolizing Masonic thought, and achieving that state of being where the heart of Jerusalem meets the mind of Athens.

In the fundamental duty of educating oneself and one's fellow Masons, we today are not negligent. We are uninformed, and the craziest thing about it is that the ritual tells us what to do. Remember the advice imparted to you upon your first knocks on the Inner Door: "Ask, and it shall be given to you; seek, and you shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you." One's search is a personal endeavor, but there are friends to help you along the way. When enough of us start speaking aloud about Masonic education we can restore to its rightful place the paramount purpose of Freemasonry: to labor together in replenishing the "common stock of knowledge" in our pursuit of Truth.

- Source: Knights of the North Masonic Dictionary

**Wisdom:**

*BOOKS OF HOLY WRITINGS – Recognized*

*FREEMASONRY AND RELIGION IN SINGAPORE*

*The following is a copy of the scroll in the anteroom of Lodge Singapore No. 7178 E.C., descriptive of the Volumes of the Sacred Law reposing in the Lodge Room. Our thanks to W. B. C. D.Schultz, Past Master of Plantagenet Lodge, No. 65, Vancouver, B.C. who obtained this material as a result of a visit to Singapore. -Editor*

The sacred Volumes reposing in this Lodge are at this present time (1968) six in number and are as follows: –

(1) The Holy Book of the Sikhs, being the Sri Guru Granth Sahib. There have been relatively few Exaltations of Sikhs in this Lodge and until this volume was presented to the Lodge the Holy Bhagvada Gita had been used.

(2) The Holy Bhhagvada Gita is the Holy Book of the Hindus, and this Volume may be opened and touched by hand but not by the lips.

(3) The Khordeh Avesta of the Zoroastrian Faith being the Holy Book of the Parsees, may be treated in the same way as the Holy Bible of the Christian faith.

(4) The Holy Koran of the Muslims. With regard to touching and sealing the Holy Koran, an overall picture is somewhat difficult to convey as the customs vary in different countries. The Imam of Kedah has, however, stated that the Holy Koran should be held above the head of the person taking an oath and that such a person may neither touch nor seal it. Another accepted method of dealing with this problem is for the V.S.L. to be treated in exactly the same manner as with the Holy Bible, but with the difference that the Holy Koran should be covered. Obviously, it is the duty of the Sponsors to ascertain the method appropriate for our particular purpose.

(5) The Holy Bible of the Christians which comprises two parts, i.e. the Old Testament and the New Testament. As regards the Craft, it is the Old Testament which is acted upon. The Books of the Old Testament which are contained in the Holy Bible, are treated by those of the Jewish Faith in the same manner as by the Christians.

(6) There are two main sects of Buddhists, i.e., the Hinayana and the Mahayana. The former are from India, Ceylon, Burma, Cambodia and Thailand, and the Mahayana (Northern) generally hail from China, Korea and Japan. The Hinayana do not recognize a Supreme Being, but there may of course be exceptional cases.

The Mayday sect acknowledges a Supreme Being and their Holy Book is the Dhammapada; being the 1st Book of the original twelve containing 423 Dhamma Stanzas. On good authority, it is understood there would be no objection to using the Holy Bible for the purpose of taking oaths, should the Dhammapada not be available.

***A Moment of Thought:***

*My Brothers, how often have you been aware of a* ***prospect*** *coming to your lodge and you made little or no effort to meet or greet him, let alone spend a few minutes visiting with him? Stop and put yourself in his position. What would you feel;--- they are not very friendly, they are not interested in obtaining new members, they are not interested in me joining their group. Yes, please stop and give it some thought.*

*Showing interest doesn’t take a lot of thought or effort;--- a simple Hello, I am so and so and I would like to welcome you to our Masonic Lodge and as time allows, look forward to getting to know more about you and your interest in the Masonic Fraternity.*

*Here are some suggestions.*

*What brought you to Masonry?*

*What brought you to this lodge?*

*Do you have a friend(s) who is/are a Mason(s)?*

*Do you know any Masons?*

*What part of town do you live in?*

*What are your interests?*

*Do you have a family?*

*Where do you work?*

*If you are uncomfortable explaining masonry or the lodge then don’t try to do it but assure him you will get someone who is better at explaining this or any other questions. Remember not everyone is comfortable or skilled with this issue but be sure you provide him with information that you will get someone to answer his questions. You are just trying to show him you are interested in him as a prospective member and he is comfortable.*

*What do you do with a* ***Visitor****? Do you let him set by himself or do you invite him to sit with you and your group? The same applies when another lodge visits your lodge. So often each lodge sets as a group at diner and do very little socializing with each other. How do we create camaraderie and build brotherly bonds if we are setting apart? I the military I once had a Squadron Commander who’s philosophy was ‘give me 10 men who will socialize and get to know each other and you take 50 men who don’t and I will beat you in every aspect 99 percent of the time.’ He proved his philosophy numerous times while we were in Southeast Asia.*

*Do we go to lodge meetings and diners just for the business part or is it the association with others and the business? Brethren, I ask you what part are you playing in making your lodge and the Masonic Fraternity stronger?*

*Thank you for your time in reading this and your after thoughts. HLS*

**Word Scrambler:**

*April’s Word to be unscrambled is RSAASTICE UECLERT*

*March’s Word is:* *NMNIOIAAEXT - Examination*

*February’s word is: OTABNGILIO – Obligation*

*January’s word was: ORPANNPINOETETSAR --Apron Presentation*

*Prize for solving is: ISSRNOOIAOTATFYUCWN (Hint) Three words: OYRU ONW IFTIANOCSTAS – Your own satisfaction*

*Upcoming Events April 2022*

*Monday April 4th Marion McDaniel Officers Meeting 6:00 PM*

*Monday April 4th Marion McDaniel Dinner 6:30 PM*

*Monday April 4th Marion McDaniel stated Meeting 7:30 PM*

***March Masonic History:***

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| *April 4* | *On this date in 1778, Voltaire was initiated in "Les Neuf Soeurs" Lodge in Paris. His conductors were Benjamin Franklin and Count Gebelin* |
| *April 5* | *On this date in 1886, Rudyard Kipling received his 1st degree.* |
| *April 8* | *On this date in 1790, the Grand Lodge of New Hampshire was constituted* |
| *April 19* | *On this date in 1787, the Grand Lodge of Maryland was formed*  *On this date (or April 18) in 1850, the Grand Lodge of California was formed.* |
| *April 20* | *On this date in 1884, Pope Leo XIII issued a famous Papal Bull against Freemasonry, titled Humanum Genus* |
| *April 21* | *On this date in 1821 the Grand Lodge of Missouri was founded.* |
| *April 22* | *On this date in 1785, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart received his 3rd degree.* |
| *April 24* | *On this date in 1901, President Theodore Roosevelt received his 3rd degree.* |
| *April 28* | *On this date in 1738, Pope Clement XII issued the first Papal Bull attacking Freemasonry*  *On this date in 1840, the Grand Lodge of Illinois was formed* |

***Birthdays:***

*Thomas Fowler 4/28/1943*

*Emmett Coshatt 4/13/1943*

*Ronald DeSchalit 4/29/1952*

*Marvin Hoffman 4/18/1931*

*Wesley Mallory 4/18/1939*

*Frank Barnes Jr 4/6/1954*

Fraternally,

Joselph Felix, WM Matt Hedrick, PM JW

(520) 336-7532 (808) 266-0408

[Jhfelix\_aal@hotmail.com](mailto:Jhfelix_aal@hotmail.com) copen73@gmail.com

Josh Sticht, SW Henry Spomer, PM Editor

(520) 977-8607 (520) 661-2021

[joshsticht@gmail.com](mailto:joshsticht@gmail.com) [1papapie@comcast.net](mailto:1papapie@comcast.net)