Worshipful Master: Joseph Felix Editor: Henry Spomer, PM

Edition: February, 2022

James Monroe 1758-1831 5th President, 1817 – 1825, made a Mason November 9, 1775, in Williamsburg Lodge (now No. 6), A.F. & A.M., Williamsburg, Virginia.

Monroe helped negotiate the Louisiana Purchase, which nearly doubled the size of the United States. During Monroe’s presidency great portions of land was acquired by the United States. Florida had become a burden to Spain, which could not afford to send settlers or garrisons, so the Spanish government decided to cede the territory to the United States in exchange for settling the boundary dispute along the Sabine River in Spanish Texas. The treaty established the U.S. territory claims through the Rocky Mountains and west to the Pacific Ocean, in exchange for the U.S. paying residents' claims against the Spanish government up to a total of $5 million and relinquishing the U.S. claims on parts of Spanish Texas west of the Sabine River and other Spanish areas, under the terms of the Louisiana Purchase. Much of this area would later become part of the United States.

[*The Capture of the Hessians at Trenton, December 26, 1776*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Capture_of_the_Hessians_at_Trenton%2C_December_26%2C_1776)*, by* [*John Trumbull*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Trumbull)*, showing Captain* [*William Washington*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Washington)*, with a wounded hand, on the right and Lt. James Monroe, severely wounded and helped by Dr. John Riker, left of center, behind the mortally wounded Hessian Colonel* [*Johann Gottlieb Rall*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Johann_Gottlieb_Rall)*. Rall is being helped by American Major* [*William Stephens Smith*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Stephens_Smith)

   Following his retirement in 1825, Monroe was plagued by financial difficulties, and died on July 4, 1831 in New York City - sharing a distinction with Presidents John Adams and Thomas Jefferson of dying on the anniversary of U.S independence. He has been generally ranked as an above-average president by historians.

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:**

WILL THE FUTURE REMEMBER?

Will the future remember?

What we did here today?

Will the future remember?

If it does, what will it say?

Will it say we were humble?

Will it say we lost sight?

Will it agree with our reasoning?

Whether wrong or right?

Will the future remember?

Of the subjects we spoke?

Will it defend our actions?

Or condemn promises we broke?

Will the future remember?

Will it forget our face?

Will it understand our methods?

To make your world a better place?

Will the future remember?

These men of the past?

Will the future acknowledge?

The shadows they cast?

Will the future remember?

Our relief to brothers in pain?

Will the future remember?

We did it without thought of gain?

Will the future remember?

We did the best that we could?

Will the future remember?

We tried to live as we should?

Will the future remember?

Our oaths on bended knee?

Will the future remember

Promises made, between God, you and me?

Whether or not the future remembers

Or even shares our point of view,

You are the future, my children,

Remember, we did it for you!!

S.K.B.

March 2005

**From our Senior Warden:**

Welcome Brothers to 2022. I know that we keep saying it but we are excited about the things we are going to do in 2022 and beyond. This is going to take hard work on all of our parts and some time commitments from all of us. One of our main focuses this year is going to be practicing and mastering our ritual. We are going to have monthly practices and exemplifications. I am asking for the lodge's help in coming to our practices, especially our brothers that know the degrees and can help the new brothers. Also we are looking for people to step into new roles so that we can have depth at all the roles. We are pushing towards if a brother in a role cannot make a degree, then we have 2 or 3 people ready to go. Also these nights are great fellowship and we work together and help each other master new roles and discuss the meanings behind the ritual that we are practicing. If you would like to take on new roles in degrees, please email me and let me know so that I can get you onto the rosters for the different practices. I look forward to hearing from you and seeing everybody at the different practices. Fraternally, - Josh Sticht SW

**From our Junior Warden:**

Brothers,

Happy New Year!   As we come into this year we will be trying to host more social gathering events where we can spend time both for Brotherhood and family bonding.  We are planning to try to do these events once a quarter.   I am up to ideas and suggestions on what we would like to do as a Lodge for these events.   Some ideas so far are a Sugar Skulls game (looking at May 7th against the Phoenix Rattlers), a cigar night, and a potluck.   Please feel free to reach out to me if you have any other suggestions.  – Matt Hedrick PM, JW

**Updates/Reminders:**

Please note that WM Joe Felix has updated the web page and added a calendar of events. This is an ongoing effort to make our web page more informative and pleasing to the eye.

Each month before the stated meeting dinner the 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.

Your Secretary is still gathering information to update records on each member. If you want updates on your contact information please notify WB Dave Brown, Secretary, with the information.

Exciting times ahead many things are happening in your Lodge. Come join us as we move into the future.

**Dinner:** Next meeting is February 7, 2022. The menu is Beef stroganoff, veggies and fresh baked cookies. Please let Henry Spomer know if you will attend the dinner so we will have enough food for everyone. Email 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, 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.

**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

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

**Educationally:**

This speaks to us all as aptly as I am sure it did when written in 1968.

*Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth*

*By R. W. Bro. E. A. Davies Published in The Tracing Board, GRS,****1968***

For the past several months, we have been continually faced in the press, on television and on the radio with descriptions of the evil day which has befallen the world as we know it. We have been told continuously of man’s inhumanity to man, of ideologies which turn human beings from God-fearing people into greedy machines. The forces, which these corrupt ideologies represent, we must naturally fear.

More to be feared is the subtle, imperceptible, infiltration of these ideologies into our way of life. The change which can come about can happen so gradually that we would not be aware of it until it was too late. This is what we must fight against — the gradual deterioration of our principles and our respect for God and man.

The forces which are attempting to disrupt our way of life and our beliefs are no respecters of person or countries, and if we are to combat them effectively, it will take more than atomic-age weapons and inter-continental ballistic missiles. The backbone of any country is the moral strength of its people. This has been clearly borne out many times in history. We who live in an affluent society, surrounded by all the comforts which money can buy, show a marked tendency toward moral laxity and laziness.

We tend to accept the things which we find around us as the product of our own brilliant endeavors and we seem to be losing the ability to be thankful, and to teach other to give thanks for what is bestowed upon us by God. Where we get the idea that all things we have in the material sense are our own achievements is very difficult to understand.

In the present way of thinking there are not many luxuries. For most people all things are necessities. How can we expect children brought up in this kind of atmosphere to understand that “but for the grace of God we are nothing” is almost impossible to comprehend.

We are failing in our responsibility when we don’t present the true picture. We, as Masons or wives or friends of Masons, can do much to correct these errors. Among the commodities which we cannot purchase is that of responsible [character](https://theeducator.ca/character/). The contribution of a great faith is in the development of men who have a sense of reverence and a consciousness of their belonging to the entire community. There comes times when we recognize that we are not just one person added to another person. We are a community.

If we are to give great values to our community, we shall have to fill those values with the content of a mature, responsible faith. Brotherhood is not a difficult thing to practice in a neighborhood, but in this atomic age brotherhood must be viewed on a broader horizon. Masonry can live and thrive in this age because it can make men fit for brotherhood. If you build in men the capacity for brotherhood, then brotherhood will follow naturally. We must go about learning the principles of Masonry — then we will be able to understand brotherhood in the larger sense our day demands. Masonry is based on religious faith. When we grasp that faith and understand it we shall receive the stature of a Master Mason.

Man has created in this atomic age of power so tremendous that if we learned how to use it, it would revolutionize our lives. With that same power man could destroy all life on earth. We have got to learn to love one another. That is the only way to banish the fear in the hearts of all of us. The time has come when we should remember that Masonry is not lodge membership alone; it is the life we live, the service we render to God and mankind.

Let us, as members of this great organization, carry outside our lodge rooms the tenets and principles inculcated n our teachings and show to all with whom we may associate that a Mason’s hand is every guided by justice, and that a true Mason’s heart is the spring from which flow kind thoughts, benevolent and generous deeds. Without being conscious of it, a man who believes and lives his Masonry is often an influence in inspiring others to live better, cleaner and more patriotically. The man who lives his Masonry cannot help being a good citizen, the way of Freemasonry is teaching not driving. Freemasonry believes that if the divine and eternal principles of truth, honor, justice, love and charity are voluntarily accepted by a man and then incorporated into his life, it should not be necessary to force him to do what is best for him and his fellow man.

We shall have no peace until the world recognizes the fundamental teachings of Masonry that all men — and that permits of no exception — are brothers. We must be prepared to accord our fellow man the same consideration as we would expect if we were in his position and we naturally expect form him honesty and [integrity](https://theeducator.ca/integrity/). We believe in the dignity and responsibility of the individual. The thing that determines the individual’s outlook on life and his attitude to his fellow men is his heart so that if we can as Masons get right at heart, we need not worry about anything else. Each of us fights a hard fight, against different odds, and we need each other to help us climb over our obstacles.

Let us look about us, be sure no hand seeks ours without a hearty handclasp, a response that cheers him; that no eye catches ours but that we smile, that we sit next to no brother without a word of cheer. Let us learn how to love, pray for, and keep faith with our brethren. Let us work with what tools we have at our disposal. Let us endeavor to erect a bridge of brotherhood upon which we may travel east, toward that “house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.” It is the touch of the hand, the personal relationship, the love of fellow man and the practice of brotherly love which will bring peace to this world.

Our order gives us the remedy, brotherly love, relief and truth. Because it is so simple it may not be highly regarded by those who have not practiced these tenets — tenets not restricted to the Masonic fraternity, but practical virtues which may be practice by every living soul. By such sincerity and dedication our honored craft may still be used in the glorious campaign to bring co-operation out of chaos, and out of the tragic frustrations and divisions of mankind a universal fellowship in God. So may He bless the craft in general in all our undertakings.

**Wisdom:**

A Reflection on Life *(Author unknown) however it could have been created by many.*

I reached the pinnacle of [success](http://theeducator.ca/success/) in the business world. In some others’ eyes, my life is the epitome of [success](http://theeducator.ca/success/). However, aside from work.

I have little joy.

In the end, my wealth is only a fact of life that I am accustomed to.

At this moment, lying on my bed and recalling my life, I realize that all the recognition and wealth that I took so much pride in, have paled and become meaningless in the face of my death.

You can employ someone to drive the car for you or make money for you but you cannot have someone bear your sickness for you.

Material things lost can be found or replaced.

But there is one thing that can never be found when it’s lost – Life.

Whichever stage in life you are in right now, with time, you will face the day when the curtain comes down.

Treasure love for your family, love for your spouse, love for your friends.

Treat yourself well and cherish others.

As we grow older, and hopefully wiser, we realize that a $300 or a $30 watch both tell the same time.

You will realize that your true inner [happiness](http://theeducator.ca/happiness/) does not come from the material things of this world.

Whether you fly first class or economy, if the plane goes down – you go down with it.

Therefore, I hope you realize, when you have mates, buddies and old friends, brothers and sisters, who you chat with, laugh with, talk with, have sing songs with, talk about north-south-east-west or heaven and earth, that is true [happiness](http://theeducator.ca/happiness/)!

Don’t educate your children to be rich.

Educate them to be happy.

So when they grow up they will know the value of things and not the price.

Eat your food as your medicine, otherwise you have to eat medicine as your food.

The One who loves you will never leave you for another because, even if there are 100 reasons to give up, he or she will find a reason to hold on.

There is a big difference between a human being and being human.

Only a few really understand it.

You are loved when you are born.

You will be loved when you die.

In between, you have to manage!

Truth at times is very hard to swallow !!!!!!

**Word Scrambler:**

February’s word is: OTABNGILIO

January’s word was: ORPANNPINOETETSAR --The words were ‘apron presentation’

Prize for solving is: ISSRNOOIAOTATFYUCWN No one replied to this one, yet.

Upcoming Events February-2022

2/2/2022 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm Official Visit Aaron Lodge #49 EA +

2/7/2022 6 pm - 6:30 pm Officier's Meeting MM

2/7/2022 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm Dinner Open

2/7/2022 7:30 pm - 8:30 pm Stated Meeting EA +

**February Masonic History:**

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| February 7 | On this date in 1981, the Grand Lodge of Alaska was organized |
| February 9 | On this date in 1909, Harry S. Truman received his 1st degree in Belton Lodge #450, Missouri.  |
| February 11 | On this date in 1988, a group of masonic leaders met with President Ronald Reagan; the Grand Master of DC presented him with a certificate, and the Scottish Rite and Shrine made him an honorary member of those bodies. |
| February 18 | On this date in 1909, U.S. President William Howard Taft received his 1st degree in Kilwinning Lodge #356, Cincinnati, Ohio  |
| February 19 | On this date in 1811, the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia was formed in Washington D.C. |
| February 23 | On this date in 1887, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle received his 2nd degree. |
| February 24 | On this date in 1853, the Grand Lodge of Minnesota was formed |

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**Birthdays:**

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| Turner | Winn | 1/8/1986 |
| Mark | McKee | 1/19/1962 |
| Donald | Brodeur | 1/2/1951 |
| James | Harris | 1/19/1952 |
| Donald | Crowell  | 1/16/1946 |
| Saul | Chaidez | 1/8/1963 |
| Frank | Egge | 1/10/1934 |
| Paul | Howe | 1/20/1957 |
| Kenneth | McColley | 1/29/1981 |
| Carl | Warren | 1/31/1974 |
| Jared | Erman | 2/7/1992 |
| Jason | Stryker | 2/2/1979 |
| Robert | Hayes | 2/19/1947 |
| Henry | Spomer | 2/19/1944 |
| Steven | Blumrosen | 2/11/1954 |
| Kenneth | Holbert | 2/19/1971 |
| Tyler | Rivas | 2/20/1987 |

Fraternally,

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