Worshipful Master: Joseph Felix Editor: Henry Spomer, PM

Edition: January 2022

Was Thomas Jefferson a Freemason? This question has not conclusively answered for 200 years. In 1960, Brother William R. Denslow, Masonic scholar concluded that Jefferson was not a Mason.

Thomas Jefferson was often in Masonic company. His son-in-law Governor of Virginia Thomas M. Randolph, his favorite grandson Thomas Jefferson Randolph, and nephews Peter and Samuel Carr were all members of Door to Virtue Lodge No. 44, Albemarle County, Virginia. Freemasons such as Thomas Paine, Voltaire, Lafayette, and Jean Houdon were some of his closest associates in Europe. Masons whom he admired in America included George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, Dr. Benjamin Rush, John Paul Jones, James Madison, James Monroe, Meriwether Lewis and William Clark.

Brother Denslow showed that Jefferson was reported by Dr. Joseph Guillotin to have attended meetings of the Lodge of Nine Muses in Paris; that he had marched in a Masonic procession with Widow’s Son Lodge No. 60 and Charlottesville Lodge No. 90 on October 6, 1817, at the cornerstone laying of Central College (now the University of Virginia); that the Grand Lodges of South Carolina and Louisiana held funeral orations and processions for him following his death on July 4, 1826; and that a Blue Lodge at Surry Court House, Virginia, was named Jefferson Lodge No. 65 in 1801.

Jefferson directed that his own epitaph should be limited to the recitation of what he considered his three most important achievements. His grave at Monticello is inscribed: “Here was buried Thomas Jefferson, Author of the Declaration of American Independence, of the Statute of Virginia for religious freedom and Father of the University of Virginia.”





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

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

**Updates:**

Please note that WM Joe Felix has updated the web page and added a calendar of events. 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.

At the December meeting Officers were provided a folder containing the Lodge Officers Hand Book, scheduled dates, budget, and Officers duties and responsibilities.

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: The December meeting was delicious ham prepared by Brother Steve Lamb with WB Pat Zech providing side dishes which included some great fried corn with bits of bacon. We had 5 ladies join us for diner for a total of 25. We had 18 in attendance for lodge. Two speakers joined us for dinner and afterwards spoke on their individual charity program. Interim Principal Jeffrey Sawyer spoke about the Booth Fickett school Christmas Program and Matthew Kuntz spoke on his Toys for Tots program and placed a gift box in the lodge. Donations were presented to both projects.

WB Larry Behers, PM provided our monthly education on the cyclical nature of our universe and how is pertains to Masonry. An interesting note is that King Solomon’s Temple and King Solomon Lodge (in Bisbee, AZ.) were built on the same meridian arc.

The lodge has adopted Booth Fickett K-8 Magnet School this year. Funds and some 20 medium size Christmas bears have been provided to the school to assist in their Christmas Program.

**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.

We did a very successful 3rd degree on November 16, for an Aaron Lodge #49 candidate.

Marion McDaniel’s officer’s installation was held Sunday December 12, 2021 beginning at 11:30 with Epes Randolph Lodge following at 2 PM, A combined lodge lunch was provided by the incoming Worshipful Masters of Marion McDaniel Lodge and Epes Randolph Lodge. The dining room and outside picnic tables were all filled. What a great turnout.

**Upcoming:**

If you would like to participate in a degree, please contact, Josh Sticht at joshsticht@gmail.com.

Next meeting is January 3, 2022. Please let Henry Spomer know if you will attend the diner so we will have enough food for everyone. Email 1papapie@comcast.net

**New 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

Sr. Deacon—Carl Warren

Jr. Deacon—Tyler Rivas

Sr. Steward—Thomas Christopherson

Jr. Steward—Joe Santistaban PM

Tyler—Sam Talvy

1 yr. Trustee--Jeff Horton PM

2 yr. Trustee--Jim Wild PM

3 yr. Trustee--Gordon Beatty

**Educationally:**

A NEW DELIGHT

 M.W. Brother John L. Travis. Grand Master of Masons in Georgia in 1938,

There could be no better advice to men who are taking, as you are, their first step in Masonry, than that they should take due heed of all that upon which they enter. You have entered this evening as apprentices into the greatest school of morality and spiritual knowledge to be found in the world by men who are as unprepared as you are. Masonry is the school in which you are taught how scientifically to live your life in accordance with the will of God and how to regulate your conduct so that every act, word and thought shall be in harmony with the divine laws.

By a cheerful and conscientious compliance with those laws and with the precepts of Masonry you will reach that point where death will have no terrors; where, when the call comes, you can, without fear and without improper regret, draw the drapery of your couch about you and lie down to pleasant dreams; where your ears will be attuned to the harmony of the spheres and your eyes will see the light which never was on land or sea. By a cheerful compliance with the laws and precepts of Masonry you will reach such a point of development as you cannot believe even to exist in your present condition and with your present knowledge.

Masonry teaches by signs, symbols and ceremonies. Every word, motion, and even your very foot-prints since you first appeared at the door of this lodge room have been full of a profound meaning; and these very words, motions and steps, together with the symbols which you see displayed about you, have hidden in them that mighty wisdom which was revealed by the Great Creator to the men who lived before the flood the primitive revelation which guided the footsteps of the ancestors of the patriarchs. When you come to see and to understand the beautiful and yet simple system of Masonic philosophy you will find a new happiness and every leaf and stone will contain for you a new delight.

It is impossible for me this evening to give you any explanation of many of these most important symbols. Therefore, we are compelled to leave for future study the plumb, the level, the square, the compasses, the Holy Bible, the pillars, the altar and many other of the symbols of Masonry, and we will confine ourselves to the Apron, which is perhaps the oldest of all symbols.

 After the Fall, as it is called, in the Garden of Eden, Adam and Eve made for themselves aprons of leaves, and the girdle and apron have been ever used as symbols of profound truth. The deepest of these meanings you are not perhaps capable of understanding, as to know all the meanings of the apron would require a most extended knowledge of ancient religions, ancient philosophies, astronomy, geometry, history and ethnology, and as you are just come to us from the outer darkness, to throw upon you too much light would have the effect that too much light ever has it would blind you and would be worse than the darkness from whence you came. However, some of the external meanings of the Apron can be given to you and may be the means of inducing you to seek for the further and deeper significations of this wonderful symbol.

Pulling up the bib and pulling down the skirt you see a triangle with the point upward and a square. The square in this aspect of the Apron symbolizes matter, physical matter, the earth and the appetites and passions which belong to the physical body.

 The square in its various aspects and forms has many other meanings which you will learn when you are entitled to know them.

 The equilateral triangle with the point uppermost, symbolizes God in existence, while the right angle triangle, such as this is, with the point uppermost, signifies God in action and also the works of God and as man is considered to be among His greatest works it signifies the soul of man which is the spark from God.

 This is sometimes represented by a flame, the flame representing the triple nature of man, the fire, the light and the heat, representing the soul, the spirit and the body three in one and the point being upward as a flame, indicates aspiration. To quote from the old hymn:

 Rivers to the ocean run,

 Nor stay in all their course;

 Fire, ascending, seeks the Sun,

 Both speed them to their source.

 So the soul that’s born of God

 Longs to see His heavenly face;

 Upward tends to His abode,

 To rest in His embrace.

In the Apron you thus see the representation of the soul and spirit in the triangle reaching upward to the highest things and the body, represented by the square, which hold it down to earth.

It is the purpose and object of Masonry to teach you how to conform your life by the practice of the virtues of morality, honesty, charity, brotherly love, relief, truth, purity in heart and thought, so that the body may be raised to a higher rate of vibration, a higher condition, and be made a fit dwelling place for the Mighty Spirit, the spark from the divine fire which the Great Creator placed there at your birth.

 In order that this body may be a fit temple for God, you must cleanse and purify, removing from it every trace of intentional wrong-doing and making it clean and sweet and pure and holy, so that the glory of God may descend upon it and illuminate it, and that you may become a beacon for the guidance of all those who are seeking light.

You may think that this is an ideal and not capable of practical demonstration. You may be surprised to learn that the half has not been told you of the capabilities of the human soul for development, growth and understanding, and that in the course of one short human life you can reach to heights which in your present condition you are incapable of conceiving.

Masonry is a scientific school. It does not depend upon theory, but every single point of its instruction has been tested by the experience of millions of men in all ages of the world.

Not a single man ever lived in accordance with the Masonic tenets that did not get accurately, scientifically and impartially the absolute compensation for every single good act of his life. And there can be no safe, sane or permanent spiritual growth except on the lines laid down by Masonry.

 Because the teachings of Masonry are founded on the eternal truth.

Masonry has known for hundreds of years that the thoughts of the heart make us what we are, and that it is possible for man to control those thoughts, to keep out the bad and call in the good and by controlling those thoughts we can control every act of our lives and be no longer mere derelicts tossed about and blown hither and yon by every passing wind, but we can move forward grandly, steadily and irresistibly toward that goal of happiness which can be reached only as the result and reward of honest effort.

There is another meaning of the Apron. The square is used to symbolize the receiving faculties, and the triangle the giving powers.

 In this Apron you can see your life history in that heretofore you have received far more than you have given.

 Masonry has long ago discovered that happiness consists in giving not less than we receive. Heretofore you have received more benefits than you have conferred, but by this symbol you are told that you cannot keep this up.

 You must confer at least as much as you receive. Emerson says in his wonderful essay on Compensation: Benefit i~ the end of nature. But for every benefit which you receive, a tax is levied. He is great who confers the most benefits to receive favors and render none. In the order of nature we cannot render benefits to those from whom we receive them, or only seldom. But the benefit we receive must be rendered again, line for line, deed for deed, cent for cent, to somebody.

Heretofore Masonry has had no concern with your conduct. It has had no obligation to you, and you have had none to it. You are now accepted into membership in the oldest society or association in the world, and from the moment of your reception here, every member of that society throughout the world owes you obligations of vast importance.

Your reception here may be truly said to be the greatest benefit which has ever been conferred upon you in your whole life. Do not forget that from this moment you owe Masonry a most sacred duty. This Apron, which is presented to you freely by the lodge to be your own property, and which we trust you will preserve and cherish until it shall be laid at last about you when your body shall be placed in the grave this Apron, for the first time tied about your waist tonight, is the emblem of purity and innocence.

 Not the innocence of the infant who cannot think evil, nor, if he could, can he carry it into effect, but the innocence of the strong man, that innocence which is better ex-pressed by the word harmlessness; the innocence of him who knows wrong and can do it, yet chooses the right because it is right.

 This Apron you may remove when you leave the lodge room, but symbolically it will ever be tied about you, and to your dying day you can never remove the obligation which this garment symbolizes. If you disgrace it by dishonesty, stain it by impurity or by any of those things which are immoral, you will be inexpressibly base, for you will violate your own most sacred promise and also and now since you know it, it will be a deliberate violation one of the fundamental laws of nature of God.

You are thinking that some Masons do not live as they should, and that if they do not live right, you, too, can be excused for failure to perform your duties and discharge your obligations. Yes, my Brother, some men do fail to do right, and this is found not only among Masons, but among other classes as well. But do you think it any excuse for the murderer that other men have committed murder, or to the thief that other men steal, or to the deserter that others have basely left their duty in the face of danger? No, my friend, you are now to try to live by higher rules; not to be as good or better than others, but to be better than yourself.

Purify your heart, therefore, my Brother. And remember that purity of heart is a condition to happiness and spiritual growth. For when the great day of judgment shall come, if you have to offer to the Most High for a temple a dwelling place, only a mind full of lust and filthy imaginings and a body de-based by impurity and evil practices, what will be your condition?

 If, instead of a fit dwelling place, you can offer to the King of all the earth and sky but a pig wallow, will you not in that day call upon the mountains and the rocks to fall upon you and hide you from the face of Him that sitteth on the throne?

But if you can truly say on that day, Dear Lord, here is myself, as a living temple, swept and garnished by labors for others, purified both within and without by love, charity, and truth, plumbed by the plumb of justice and right, level with the level of brotherly love and humility, and square with the square of virtue, then indeed will the Divine Spirit enter into your heart and dwell there and give you peace.

Therefore, guard thy heart with all diligence, for out of it are the issues of life and death.

**Wisdom:**

Excerpt from: The Strangest Secret by Earl Nightingale

I would like to tell you about the strangest secret in the world.

Not long ago Albert Schweitzer, the great doctor and Nobel Prize winner, was being interviewed in London and a reporter asked him, “Doctor what’s wrong with men today?”

The great doctor was silent for a moment and then he said, “Men simply don’t think.”

And it’s about this that I want to talk with you. We live today in a golden age. This is an era that man has looked forward to, dreamed of and worked hard for thousands of years. But since it’s here, we pretty well take it for granted. We, in America, are particularly fortunate to live in the richest land that ever existed on the face of the earth. A land of abundant opportunity for everyone, but do you know what happens?

Let’s take a hundred men who start even at the age of 25. Do you have any idea of what will happen to those men by the time they’re 65? These one hundred men, who all start even at the age of 25, believe they are going to be successful. If you ask any one of these men if he wanted to be a success, he would tell you that he did and you would notice that he was eager towards life, that there was a certain sparkle to his eye and erectness to his courage and life seemed like a pretty interesting adventure to him.

But by the time they’re 65 one will be rich. Four will be financially independent. Five will still be working, 54 will be broke. Now think a moment, out of the one hundred, only five make the grade. Why do so many fail? What has happened to the sparkle that was there when they were 25? What’s become of the dreams, the hopes, the plans and why is there such a large disparity between what these men intended to do and what they actually accomplished?

**Word Scrambler:** Unscramble: ERDTNEEEPNAECPTRIDREGEE

Email the Editor with your answer. I was asked what the prize was for getting the correct answer and after much thought I came up with “ISSRNOOIAOTATFYUCWN”

**January Masonic History:** January appears to be a slow month in history.

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| January 2 | On this date in 1901, U.S. President Theodore Roosevelt received his 1st degree in Matinecock Lodge #806, Oyster Bay, New York. |
| January 7 | On this date in 1808, the Grand Lodge of Ohio was established.On this date in 1785, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart received his 2nd degree. |
| January 8 | On this date in 1844 or 1843, the Grand Lodge of Iowa was formed |
| January 12 | On this date in 1886 Quatuor Coronati Lodge #2076 was consecrated and constituted in London. It is considered by many to be the premiere masonic research lodge in the world. |
| January 13 | On this date in 1818, the Grand Lodge of Indiana was formed |
| January 17 | On this date in 1865, the Grand Lodge of Nevada was formedOn this date in 1872, the Grand Lodge of Utah was formed |
| January 26 | On this date in 1866, the Grand Lodge of Montana was formedOn this date in 1887, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle received his 1st degree. |

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**Birthdays:**

Ronald Mealka 3-Dec

Phillip Horton 11-Dec

John Barnes 13-Dec

Charles Holbert II 17-Dec

Nicholas Leluan 17-Dec

Robert Nagore 19-Dec

Michael Palmer 26-Dec

James Hedberg 27-Dec

Alfred Curtis III 29-Dec

Merle Hudson 31-Dec

Welcomings and New Beginnings

It is with extreme humility and utmost gratitude that I assume the role of Worshipful Master of this lodge.

Brethren, I thank you most heartily for the confidence you have placed in me and I will endeavor, to the best of my ability, to merit that confidence by discharging my duties zealously and impartially. If errors are made they will be errors of the mind and not of the heart. I take it for granted that you will stand by me throughout my term of office and I expect to have the benefit of your counsel and advice. My sincere thanks for the honor you have paid me, and I promise that I shall do all in my power to do what the responsibilities and duties of the office require.

Introduction: My name is Joseph Henry Felix II. A native Tucsonan, I was born on the Southwest side of Tucson to wonderful loving parents, Joseph and Elma. I attended Santa Cruz Catholic School through my primary education and graduated from Salpointe Catholic High School in 1996. I received a Bachelor of Science in Psychology and a Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy from the University of Arizona in 2006. I later received a Master of Arts in Elementary Education and Master of Science in Administration and Supervision from the University of Phoenix.

I am married to a wonderful woman, Michele, and we have two stepchildren, Frankie (Amber) and Celine, one adopted child, Litzy. I also have three beautiful granddaughters: Lucy, Lily and Leia. My wife and I both work for a charter school named Southgate Academy, which is located on the Southwest side of town where I am employed as the Data Specialist for the District.

In my spare time I can often be found with my nose in a book, or rather these days, staring at an iPad, watching a good movie, painting, or playing with my two outlandish Rottweilers, Zoe and Sophie. I also have learned to love outdoor running, which I began because of the need to lose weight and to become more health conscious. Later I paired this new hobby with my intrinsic desire to help those in need so I began to run marathons as a St. Jude’s Hero.

Welcomes: I would like to introduce the Officers representing Marion McDaniel Lodge #56 this upcoming 2022 Masonic year. I am honored to work with all of these Brothers with whom I have the utmost respect and I am humbled by their dedication to the Craft.

In the West: Brother Josh Sticht; a truly outstanding Brother who has so much to give to our fraternity.

In the South: WB Matthew Hedrick; who returns to the line and is a powerhouse of Masonic knowledge.

As Treasurer: WB Pat Zech; a Mason’s Mason without a doubt.

As Secretary: WB David Brown our new Ritual Master and a plethora of wisdom regarding our Craft.

SD Carl Warren; an up and comer for sure with a memory like an iron box.

JD Tyler Rivas; the epitome of hard work and dedication.

SS Thomas Christopherson; a return to the line for this Brother and we are excited to see what his bright future entails.

JS Joseph Santisteban; a PM from another state, so we are excited to have his wisdom joining our line.

Our Marshall for the year is Stephen “Spanky” Lamb whose personality will brighten up any room.

Our Tyler for the year is Sam Talvy who is also going to be working on outreach for the widows and sickness and distress for the lodge.

Last, and most definitely not least, our Chaplain for the year is a Brother who I must take a moment to recognize. As with so many others, he has been a blessing not only to myself but to my family. His love for the Craft, or more so his love for people in general, shines through all that he does as he tirelessly works to make this world a better a place. I am proud and honored to not only call you my mentor, but also my friend, Henry Spomer.

All these Brothers are amazing assets to Masonry in Arizona. If you have not yet met any of them, please come down to the Lodge and meet them. We have lots of things planned and lots of opportunities to join in the exciting new times at Marion McDaniel.

New Beginnings: The COVID-19 pandemic changed our world. Never again are we to relate to our experience of the world quite the same. However, Masonry still stands. Masonry holds strong as it has for centuries before us and is ever adapting to the change and flux of the universe, ever holding constant to those tenants we hold so dear. Since time immemorial, Freemasonry has created bonds between men whom they may never have met without our fraternity.

As we endeavor, to renew our lodge. It is important that we hold onto this consistency in which our Craft is rooted, all the while branching out as we adapt for the future. For this year it is my focus to revive some of the customs of the Lodge as we strengthen our foundation in preparation for future growth as well as to reach out to other Lodges to reconnect bonds between Brothers of the Craft.

I stand committed to the task knowing full well that these aforementioned officers are dedicated and highly capable of the task at hand. Join us in the exciting new times we have in the near future.

* Joseph Felix, WM

**Upcoming Events**

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| **January-2022** |
| 1/3/2022 | 6 pm - 6:30 pm | Trustee's Meeting | MM |  |
| 1/3/2022 | 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm | Dinner  | Open |  |
| 1/3/2022 | 7:30 pm - 8:30 pm | Stated Meeting | EA + |  |
| 1/8/2022 | 10:00 AM | Official Visit Jerusalem Daylight #66 | EA + |  |
| 1/15/2022 | 1:00 PM | Social Event - BBQ at the Lodge | Open |  |
| 1/18/2022 | 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm | 2nd Degree Practice | FC + |  |
| 1/25/2022 | 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm | 2nd Degree Exemplification | FC + |  |

Fraternally,

Joselph Felix, WM Matt Hedrick, PM JW

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