



On the Level



Mar - Apr 2023

Marquis de Lafayette Lodge No. 41, AF & AM

Denver, CO

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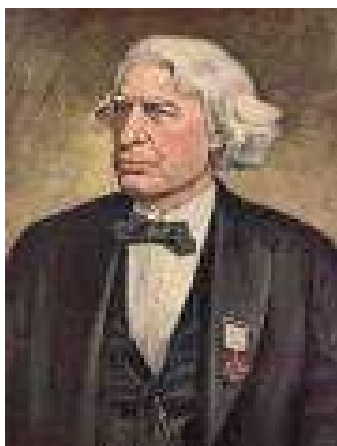
Our home, the historic Masonic building at 1614 Welton Street in downtown Denver

Masonic Trivia

Happy birthday to Dr. Albert Mackay - March 12th

A stalwart of Masonry, Mackay is best known for his books "An Encyclopaedia of Freemasonry and its Kindred Sciences" (1894), "The Symbolism of Freemasonry: Illustrating and Explaining Its Science and Philosophy, its Legends, Myths and Symbols" (1869), and "The Principles of Masonic Law : A treatise on the constitutional laws, usages and landmarks of Freemasonry" (1859). These three books have served Masonry well as the ultimate reference guides, and should be present in every well-read Mason's personal library.

Mackay was the Master of Solomon's Lodge No.1 in 1843. He served as Grand Lecturer and Grand Secretary of The Grand Lodge of South Carolina, as well as Secretary General of the Supreme Council of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite for the Southern Jurisdiction of the United States. In addition to being a prolific Masonic author, Dr. Mackay had been a practicing physician until 1844. He was also (*editor: unfortunately so*) a Union sympathizer during the War Between the States.



Albert Gallatin Mackay, MD

b. March 12th, 1807
d. June 21th, 1881



Calendar of Events

March



Wednesday, March 8th
Stated Communication

Dinner at 6pm, lodge opens at 7pm on the Entered Apprentice degree



Saturday, March 11th
Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons - Regional Official Visit in Co. Springs

9am til noon at the Grand Lodge building



Wednesday, March 22nd
Stated Communication

Dinner at 6pm, lodge opens at 7pm



Saturday, March 18th
Grand Council of Cryptic Masons - Regional Official Visit in Pueblo

8am til noon at 126 Main St, Pueblo

April



Sunday, April 9th
Easter Sunrise Service - Denver Consistory

Doors open at 5:30am, service begins at 6:30am. This is open to everyone, including the public



Wednesday, April 12th
Stated Communication

Dinner at 6pm, Lodge opens at 7pm on the Entered Apprentice degree
We will be holding an Entered Apprentice degree; please be on time for dinner



Tuesday, February 14th

Happy Valentine's Day - you'd best not forget your wives and sweethearts (and please don't get them mixed up)



Wednesday, April 26th
Stated Communication

Dinner at 6pm, Lodge opens at 7pm on the Entered Apprentice degree



Light From the East



Bro Johann Ortner, Worshipful Master



My Brothers,

As I made known to you during the installation and in my first meeting sitting in the East: my focus is to go back to the basics of Freemasonry, to reach out to other lodges and our families and community, to retain or increase attendance and membership in our Lodge. None of that can be done without your support and participation. I am very grateful with the support and response from all of you.

Brothers are stepping up to

- Provide excellent educational presentations focusing on the Basics of Freemasonry
- Proposing ways to increase visibility of our Lodge and to prospects who are interested in a Lodge
- Stepping up into chairs one or two levels above their current position
- Last but not least, thanks to our JW for providing excellent home cooked meals. On that topic I'd also like to say a big thanks for the contributions/donations to the meals. This helps a lot to defray the cost of meals.

We had quite a bit of activity going during the first two months of this year, including

- The Grand Lodge Annual meeting where our lodge was present with quite a good number of members (far more than just the three principal officers)
- Both Wardens also attended the Workshops given during the Annual GL meetings and provided feedback about it the value of attending
- The Investigative Committee visited one of our prospects and he was voted on to become receive the degrees of Masonry
- Education at every meeting, provided by our own Brothers
- Participation of Brothers who haven't been to our Lodge in many years

Going forward the activities planned for the next few months will be equally important and exciting:

- Bro Randall Nelson will demonstrate his proficiency as EA on March 8
- Brian Johnson's initiation is planned for on April 12 this year.
- Visitations and presentations by our District Lecturer and Speakers from the GL

I would like to thank my officers for the great work they are doing so far this year. I think I can speak for the whole of the Craft when I say that all the hard work is very much appreciated. Everyone is stepping up and helping in whatever capacity fits best into their schedules, and I am very glad to see the level of passion and commitment that is being displayed.

Bro.: Johann Ortner

Worshipful Master



From the West



Bro Richard Heath

Dear Brothers,

Sitting in the West and wearing the level as the badge of my office, I thought I might refresh our memories about the level as a working tool of the craft.

Anyone who has built a table, set a counter top, or laid a floor understands the importance of things being on the level. These are the concerns of an operative mason.

As a speculative Mason, we learn that being on the level means being honest, dealing fairly, and practicing justice. The scales of justice must be balanced, on the level, equal on both sides. As we meet on the level at the close of each lodge, let us remember to carry these ideas with us in our everyday life.

Bro.: Richard Heath

Senior Warden

From the South



Bro Kyle Ennenga

Brothers,

"If you don't like the weather, wait an hour;" is a cliché I grew up hearing here in Colorado. It's a cliché because it's true, and no better time exemplifies this than the whacky weather start of the 2023 baseball season in March and April! During this time, high school and youth teams cancelled practices and games on account of snow at the beginning of the week, and played ball a mere day or two later under some very agreeable Colorado sunshine. It is my hope the weather doesn't impact us too badly as we have quite a bit to look forward to in the coming months! From degree work to education, to potentially visiting another lodge soon, Marquis de Lafayette Lodge No. 41 will be humming with activity.

In the meantime, should you need some more Masonic content, or you're like me and you've got some conflicts eating into your Masonic calendar year, there are podcasts to be consumed! I encourage you to visit the *Masonic Revival* list of Masonic Podcasts, located here: <https://masonicrevival.com/pages/podcasts>.

If you're not familiar with podcasts, these can be short or long form conversations, which can be video+audio or audio-only in format, and discuss a wide variety of topics, depending on the host's interests or current events. I like to listen to mine at the gym or on the road. Let me know if you listen to any others not in the list!

Bro.: Kyle Ennenga

Junior Warden

Did you know that past issues of your trestleboards are available on our website?

Check out website www.mdl41.com for trestleboards, the Book of Constitutions, the officer's handbook, and more.



The Secretary's Desk



WB Lee Miller

Does our Masonic family still exist?

When we refer to the Masonic family, we're talking about all of the bodies that exist for our ladies and children. For the Mason who can't get enough in the Blue Lodge, we have the Scottish Rite with the four different officer lines and the Knights of St Andrew. We have the York Rite with the Chapter, Council and Commandery, and a dozen or more other invitational bodies, and the Shrine with its inner bodies plus the Grotto.

For the ladies, we have Order of the Eastern Star, the Order of Amaranth, the Social Order of the Beauceant, the White Shrine of Jerusalem, and the Daughters of the Nile. The young girls can join Rainbow Girls, and young ladies have Job's Daughters. For young men, we offer the Squires and then DeMolay.

There really is something for every member of the family. But the not-so-well kept secret is that every one of those bodies is suffering from a lack of memberships, with Orders and Chapters and Bethels consolidating or turning in their charters. That should sound familiar to anyone who has been a Master Mason for more than about fifteen minutes.

There is far more to compete with everyone's time than there was even just ten or twelve years ago when Colorado Masonry was enjoying a bit of a renaissance. That was in part thanks to the Dan Brown books and movie adaptations of those books, plus books by Colorado Masons such as Tim Hogan and Rob Herd. But people don't need to join groups or clubs anymore for socializing; there's Facebook and Instagram and Twitter and Tik-Tok for that. Many work from home with the miracle/curse of Zoom and Meet and Teams. Entertainment is streamed via YouTube and Netflix and Hulu and Amazon Prime. You don't even need to go out to eat anymore, just call Uber Eats or DoorDash to get practically anything delivered to your doorstep.

Is it any wonder we can't get people out of their house?

I don't have a magic solution for those problems. If I did, I'd package it up and send it to every Masonic body in the country, and become more famous --- if slightly less verbose --- than Albert Pike.

But I do have one thing to offer, and that is you and I are partly to fault. That's right, you and I. "But I'm a dedicated Mason", you may think to yourself. "I'm involved. I'm an officer in Lodge, and I make almost every meeting. I joined the Scottish Rite, and I make it there most months. Heck, I even joined the York Rite and pay my dues. How can it be MY fault?"

It's because our Masonic family isn't all of those appendant bodies. Our Masonic family is our *own individual family members*. It's our wives that eat dinner alone at least once a week while we're at our meetings. We don't want to bother her because she works full time. We don't make an effort to get our kids in Job's Daughters or DeMolay, or even into Scouting because they are in sports with schedules that rival those of professional sports teams. Life is far more complicated these days than it was in the 1950s when Masonic memberships burgeoned, and many bodies had waiting lists.

We make time for what's important in our lives. Masonry is important to me for the ties to something bigger than myself. I made Masonry a priority in my life, and my entire extended family sees that, and participates. I hope your family sees that importance as well. It's up to you and I to keep our entire Masonic family going.

W.: Bro.: Lee Miller

Secretary



2023 Officers

Johann Ortner	Worshipful Master (303) 882-1296
Richard Heath	Senior Warden (303) 841-1020
Kyle Ennenga	Junior Warden (720) 323-2360
J. Randy Penn, PM	Treasurer (303) 596-3008 treasurer@mdl41.com
Lee Miller, PM	Secretary (303) 961-6455 secretary@mdl41.com
Bryan Kemper	Senior Deacon (720) 891-2721
Lawrence Laurent	Junior Deacon (774) 289-3218
Grant Sanders, PM	Senior Steward (720) 648-0222
Sterling Field	Junior Steward (719) 210-5312
Gene Anderson, PM	Chaplain (303) 819-4191
Harry Sanders, PM	Marshal (303) 325-4702
Nick Miller, PM	Tiler (303) 808-5944
Tony Clark, PM	District Lecturer (720) 838-1567

Past Masters

Albert Pike 117	Emerson R. Bails 1959	Rob Morris 92	Randall Drake 1989
	Herbert E. Akins * 1979		Lincoln Soule 1996
	Robert R Swope * 1984		Grant Sanders 1999
	Samuel L. Wittner 1986		Lincoln Soule 2006
	Robert R Swope * 1987	Schiller 41	
	James W. Oliver 1988	J. Randy Penn 1996	
	James W. Oliver 1989	Lincoln Soule 2014	
	David R. McDaniel* 1990	Pythagoras 41	
	David R. McDaniel* 1991	Ricky Haskell 2017	
	Robert R. Swope * 1994	Ricky Haskell 2018	
	Stephen T. Parce 1996	Marquis de Lafayette 41	
	Curtiss L. Sorensen 1997	Harry Sanders 2019	
	Douglas K. Parce 1998	John Davis 2020	
	James M. Desmond 2000	Nick Christoff 2021	
	John A. Myers 2001	Nick Miller 2022	
	Stephen T. Parce 2002		
	James W. Oliver 2003		
	Robert R. Swope * 2004		
	Edward F Charter 2005		
	David Parce 2006		
	Keene Daiss* 2007		
	James Oliver 2008		
	Herbert Akins * 2009		
	Robert R. Swope * 2010		
	Christopher Scott 2011		
	Daniel R. McCune 2012		
	Jeremiah "Jay" Allen 2013		
	Richard M. Murray 2014		
	Dean McConnell 2015		
	Bill Busby 2016		
	Lee Miller 2017		
	Anthony Florez 2018		

(* Deceased)

Past Grand Masters

Glenn B. Van Fleet, P.G.M. (1958)
R. Keith Milheim, P.G.M. (1984)

Secretary Emeriti

Christopher Wm. Scott, PM (2012 – 2017)
Samuel Wittner, PM (1987 – 2011)



Fee for the Degrees

EA: \$150 FC: \$50 MM: \$50 = \$250.00

2023 Dues

\$186



This is the Marquis de Lafayette's apron which is proudly displayed in our Lodge. It is one of five known of his existing aprons. See our website at www.mdl41.com for more information.