



Making good men better

GILA VALLEY TRESTLE BOARD

Safford Lodge #16 F & AM

P.O. Box 694, Safford, AZ 85548

Email: safford_lodge_16@outlook.com

www.benson-arizona.com/safford16/index.htm



January 2018

Ashler, Plumb Line and Time



From the
Worshipful Master

Douglas W. Jones

Greetings Brothers,

Happy New Year! A new year provides us with another opportunity to improve ourselves, to commit to attending Lodge and providing service to the Craft and the community. I hope each of us will make that commitment to be a better man, a better brother and a better community member.

We are honored to receive RW Bro. Craig L. Gross, Deputy Grand Master of Arizona at our January stated meeting. Come out and pay your respects.

Masons do make a difference Brothers!

I'll see you in Lodge.

Yours in Brotherhood,

Douglas W. Jones

Three months ago... we discussed, the Perfect Ashler. Two months ago we discussed the Plumb Line. Last month we discussed Time. How do these symbols intertwine?

The individual interpretation of symbols—that is, the logical thinking through of other meanings than is given in our rituals—is the **magic pebble** which turns the iron of our symbols to gold. Lucky the Freemason who has it—and poor the brother who has used it once and thrown it away without knowing the treasure he had.

There are some so wearied with the same actions, words, thoughts, night after night, in Freemasonry, that, like the poor native, they touch their interpretation stones to the iron symbols of their bracelets in but a perfunctory manner. Suddenly, then, they find their power is gone—they have lost the **magic pebble**—the iron must be for them forever iron—the gold which the **magic pebble** evokes will not come for them. For these, the patient hunt for an individual interpretation is the only way in which they can gather the real riches of our Fraternity, and leave behind them a sparkling trail of golden light for those who follow after.

Brother Isaac Newton wrote:

*Isn't it funny that Princes and Kings
And clowns who caper in circus rings
And human beings, like you and me,
Are workers in Eternity?*

*Each is given a box of tools,
A shapeless mass and a book of rules;
And each must make, ere life has flown,
A stumbling block or—a stepping stone.*

He who tries to find a **magic pebble** with which to interpret our symbols in terms of golden thought, is indeed, building a stepping stone for those pilgrims he meets on the highway of life. His gold, like mine, may be in but tiny particles—his efforts, like mine, may be but feeble. But at least they are his own and made in good faith. For he is the brother whose **magic pebble** was not tossed into the sea of indifference, but remains by him, touching the iron of symbolism, the tried steel of friendship and the grosser metal of every-day life, turning them into the gold of understanding, by which, so be it we walk humbly and fearlessly enough, we may one day read the true meaning of the Lost Word.

...timeless excerpts from **The Master Mason**, Volume IV, June 1927, by Brother Carl H. Claudy

Stated Communication:

**Tuesday, January 2, 2017
7:00 PM at Safford Lodge,
1421 S. 2nd Ave., Safford**

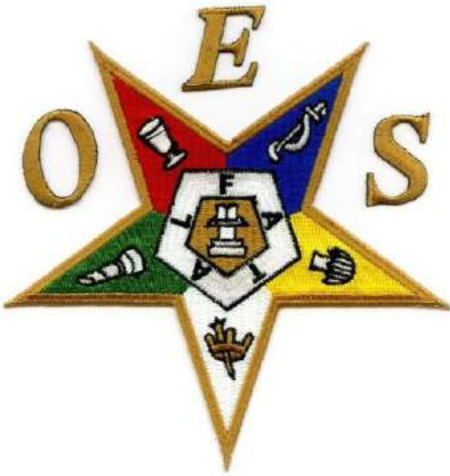
**Taco Dinner at the Lodge
5:30 PM. Ladies are invited.**

I am a Freemason

I am a member of one of the oldest and largest fraternities for men in the world.

The square and compasses I wear on my lapel has for centuries been recognized throughout the world as a symbol of truth, morality and brotherly love; and are the virtues that we strive to exemplify throughout our lives.

**Order of the Eastern Star
Arcadia Chapter #9, Safford, AZ
January 2018**



Another year has come and gone. We hope you had a good year and will have an even better new year!

Recent Events: During our December meeting we were honored by a visit from our Past Worthy Grand Matron, Ellen O'Mallia who was introduced and given Grand Honors.

Arcadia #9 members were saddened by the recent passing of two of our beloved and long-time members. Brother Byron Felix passed on December 10th. Brother C.T. "Buck" Turney passed on December 11th. The families and friends of these men have greatly appreciated the out-pouring of prayers, kind words of sympathy, and attendance at the services. These two brothers will be sorely missed at Chapter.

In the previous newsletter the 50 plus year- members who were present at the November meeting were recognized. I would now like to recognize the Chapter's 50 + year-members who were unable to attend the meeting but who are just as important to Arcadia Chapter #9. They are Sister Laura Ann Bethel (54 years), Sister Shirley Alexander (61 years), Sister Lilly Chapman (59 years), Brother C. T. "Buck" Turney (63 years), Sister Sally L. Butler (53 years), Sister Rose Mary Robbs (55 years), Sister Shirley-Ann Lichter (62 years), Sister Geneva Davis (53 years), Sister Frances Ard (50 years), Sister Barbara Chapman (58 years), Sister Margaret Schade (74 years), Sister Judith Ann Sabin (52 years), Sister Agnes Swick (63 years), Sister Margaret Cochran (52 years), Sister Pauline Tibbets (61 years) Sister Elizabeth Allaire (63 years), Brother Byron Felix (54 years), Sister Ann E. Blair (62 years). Congratulations to all of these sisters and brothers on a great achievement.

Upcoming Events: Our next stated meeting is on Tuesday, January 9th, beginning at 7:00 p.m. and Adah will be honored. Be sure to review her story before the meeting and wear blue.

The Official Visit is scheduled for Saturday, February 3, 2018.

Stars Make A Difference: During the busy holiday season everyone makes a difference to those around them. So I would like to once again say "thank you" to all O.E.S. members for what they do to make a difference in our everyday lives.

Circle of Concern: Many of our members are dealing with medical issues, so please continue to keep them in your thoughts and prayers. Cards are always appreciated. Also, if you talk with members who may need extra help and support, please let other members know so that we can all help where needed.

*A Word from the Junior Warden:
January 2018*

Greetings Brethren,

I hope everyone is having a wonderful holiday season. First, I would like to say what an honor it is to sit in the South this year. I commit to doing my best to fulfil the responsibilities of the chair. Recently (for the past two meetings) I have made dinner for brethren and our guests. I have found that I enjoy doing this very much and if supported, I would like to continue. In fact, we will have a Taco Bar at our stated meeting in January. I especially enjoy having the families come to the dinners and was proud to have my daughter and grandsons attend last month. With that said, it costs roughly \$150.00 each time we do this. With your generous donations and a little help with some side dishes prepared by Margret and Carole, we are able to continue. I will continue to do these meals at the Lodge as long as the donations support it. Any surplus funds generated will be returned to the lodge in one way or another. So please don't forget the donation box on Lodge nights and feel free to give me some suggestions on what you would like at future meetings.

Thomas E. Schaff
Junior Warden