



Making good men better

GILA VALLEY TRESTLE BOARD

Safford Lodge #16 F & AM

P.O. Box 694, Safford, AZ 85546

Email: safford_lodge_16@outlook.com

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



March 2017



From the
Worshipful Master
Douglas W. Jones

Greetings Brothers,

The Lodge has been so busy the last couple of months - we missed Bro. George Washington's birthday celebration. But come to Lodge and help plan another event to celebrate this time in our lives as Masons.

We have the fortune to be raising Fellowcraft Brother Thomas Schaff to the sublime degree of Master Mason on Wednesday evening, **March 1st - 6:00 PM**. To maintain a viable Masonic Lodge in southeast Arizona, we need your participation in these activities.

See you in Lodge, Brothers.

Yours in Brotherhood,

Douglas W. Jones

George Washington

President 1789-1797

Master Mason 1753

George Washington became a Mason at age 20 in 1753. It is suggested that he may have attended approximately nine Masonic lodge meetings during the remaining 46 years of his life, and probably never presided over any lodge.

However, George Washington wrote letters in which he said he was happy to be a Mason, and, in 1791, described Masonry as being "founded in justice and benevolence...the grand object of Masonry is to promote the happiness of the human race."

Asked more specifically about Freemasonry in 1798, Washington wrote, "...So far as I am acquainted with the principles and Doctrines of Free Masonry, I conceive them to be founded on benevolence and to be exercised for the good of mankind. If it has been a Cloak to promote improper or nefarious objects, it is a melancholly [sic] proof that in unworthy hands, the best

institutions may be made use of to promote the worst designs."

Interestingly, brother George Washington took his oath of office as the first President of the United States with his hand upon a Bible from St. John's Lodge No. 1, of the Ancient York Masons. Since then, George Washington's Inaugural Bible has been used for the inaugurations of Warren G. Harding, Dwight D. Eisenhower, Jimmy Carter, and George H. W. Bush.

Additional use has been made in the funeral processions of Presidents Washington and Abraham Lincoln and in the center-stone laying of the U.S. Capitol, the addition of the Washington Monument, the centennials of the cornerstone laying of the White House, U.S. Capitol, and the Statue of Liberty, the 1964 World's Fair as well as the launching of the aircraft carrier George Washington.

The Washington bible is, interestingly, still in active use by St. Johns Lodge when not in civic display.



From: freemasoninformation.com

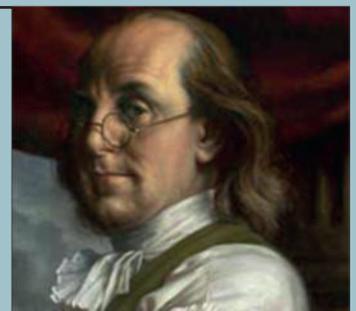
Stated Communication:
Tuesday, March 7, 2017
7:00 PM at the Lodge Hall

No host dinner at **El Charro**,
601 W. Main Street, Safford
5:30 PM. Ladies are invited.

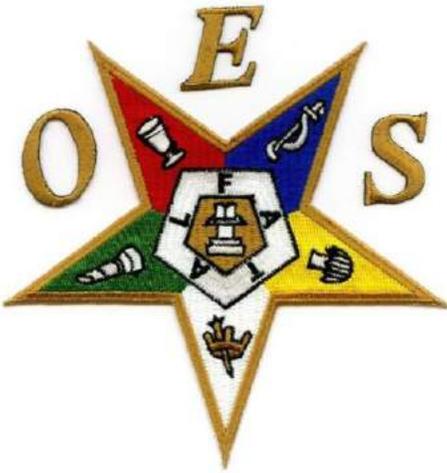
*The Constitution only gives
people the right to pursue happiness.*

You have to catch it yourself.

- Bro. Benjamin Franklin



News from the Order of the Eastern Star, Arcadia Chapter #9, Safford, AZ



At our February 14th stated meeting, Worthy Matron Kerry gave some interesting history of Mardi Gras and gave every member present a mask to wear. She also reminded us that Arizona is now 115 years old! Sister Kerry honored Sister Patricia Gelbach as this year's Chapter Sweetheart and gave her a bag full of "goodies". Sister Pat has been serving as our organist. This has allowed Sister Lyn to serve the chapter in so many other ways. Congratulations, Sister Pat.

For our stated March meeting come see what Irish mischief our chapter leprechauns have in store for us...maybe a pot of gold or other treasures? We will continue to fine-tune our portion of the arrangements for the April Homecoming.

March 4th - Bag Lady Luncheon – Join the Nile Club for an afternoon of fun and fellowship in this fundraising event. It begins at 11:00 a.m. with a lunch beginning at 11:30. The lunch includes spaghetti casserole, green salad, and desert. Prizes will be offered including a raffle for the grand prize of a jewelry ensemble valued at \$350.00. For additional information, contact Geoganne at 520-429-8812. Everyone is invited.

April 6th - "Know the 10 Signs" – The presentation begins at 7:00 p.m. and will be led by Sister Cynthia and Brother Philip Rhea. This presentation relates to Alzheimer's disease, a disease that unfortunately is affecting more people every year. It will be held at the Safford Masonic Lodge and is open to the public. Invite your family members and friends to come for a good, informative presentation.

Saturday, April 22nd – Homecoming - in Globe by White Mountain #8 and Arcadia #9.

Please continue to keep all our sisters and brothers who are dealing with illness in your thoughts and prayers, especially for Brother Buck and Sister Lyn, Sister Mollie, and Sister Shirley-Ann.

Last month I mentioned the foundation of our Order. This month I want to focus on our local chapter. "Arizona's second Worthy Grand Patron, J. J. Sweeney granted a dispensation June 23, 1902 to organize a chapter at Safford. When Grand Chapter met November 13, 1902 in Phoenix, a Charter was granted and signed by J. J. Sweeney, W.G.P. and Cora Johns, W.G.M. The next Grand Matron and Grand Patron visited Arcadia Chapter and mentioned their work as excellent. They had initiated thirteen members that year with a membership of forty at the end of the year, 28 Charter Members. Arcadia Chapter derived its name from a ranger station in nearby Graham Mountains." This information was taken from a book entitled Four Score Years, History of the Order of the Eastern Star of Arizona by Blanche L. Whetstine, P.G.M. My thoughts – that means Arcadia #9 is 115 years old, just like Arizona! How are we passing on this rich and unique legacy?

Our Golden Chain has been broken with the passing of Sister Francis Gould who died on February 5th. She will be missed by those who knew her.

An Irish blessing – *May the face of every good news and the back of every bad news be towards us.*

See you at Chapter on Tuesday, March 14, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.

Margaret Ratje, PM – Chapter Reporter