



Making good men better

GILA VALLEY TRESTLE BOARD

Safford Lodge #16 F & AM

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April 2017



From the
Worshipful Master

Douglas W. Jones

Greetings Brothers,

Welcome and congratulations to our newly raised brother, Thomas Schaff. It is truly a pleasure to have you become a full member of Freemasonry. We all look forward to working with you as you progress along your Masonic journey.

In the near future, we also have the possibility to pass Entered Apprentice Brother JW Fitzgerald III to the Fellowcraft Degree.

I hope you will attend Lodge and participate in your Lodge's activities. See you in Lodge, Brothers.

Yours in Brotherhood,

Douglas W. Jones



I've Been a Mason One Year...

I have been a Mason for a little better than a year. I think that I have missed something. I went through the degrees so fast that I don't know a whole lot about Freemasonry. In lodge, rank is everything and we are all- or should I say, all the chairs are adorned in gold chains, and fancy titles. I don't want those titles but I would sure like much more guidance in the craft. Is there more... -Robert

Robert, your thoughts are well taken. Due to today's members going through their degrees much more rapidly than in yesteryear, without personal study, the underlying truths of Freemasonry might be forever lost. That is why I built this website... so the members could read and learn more about Freemasonry.

In yesteryear, members not only memorized ritual, but dutifully read Masonic books so they might better understand the fraternity, its long history, its symbols and feel its true spirit.

The "rank and fortune" you speak of mean that a true Freemason does not judge a man by his rank or title (whether inside the lodge or in the

outside world.) Freemasons who embrace all that Freemasonry stands for understand that all men are equal within a lodge.

Those who become Freemasons with expectations of their "rank" giving them a superior status above other members are typically poorly read in what Freemasonry stands for, and do not do justice to the craft.

Those who become Freemasons with expectations of "riches and fortune" flowing toward them due to their membership or their titles are similarly uninformed and ill read.

Freemasonry is about a brotherhood of men under the Fatherhood of God (Supreme Being). It is about striving to become the best man you can be (exhibiting Brotherly Love), being a moral man (Truth) and helping others (Charitable Acts).

True Freemasons remain humble because they have learned that each man, no matter his title or rank, is a servant of the lodge. This especially applies to the Master of the Lodge. It is only through Masonic education in the craft that its underlying spirit can continue to be realized and felt.

masonic-lodge-of-education.com

Stated Communication:

**Tuesday, April 4, 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.

*An investment in
knowledge pays the best interest.*

- Bro. Benjamin Franklin



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



At our March 14th stated meeting, our chapter went green in honor of St. Patrick's Day. Sister Lyn and Brother Buck provided a delicious Irish dinner. After dinner, Sister Wilma was honored as our District Instructor. She has a long-time interest in genealogy so we extended her family tree by presenting a leaf from each member present as well as gifts and cards to show our appreciation.

Members of the Nile Club joined together on March 4th for a fundraising event they had entitled a Bag Lady Luncheon. I have heard that a great time was had by all who attended.

April 6th - "Know the 10 Signs" – Worthy Patron, Phillip Rhea reminded us of the program on Alzheimer's disease. It begins at 7:00 p.m. at the Safford Masonic Lodge and is open to the public. Light refreshments will be served. Alzheimer's disease, or other dementia disorders, unfortunately will touch everyone in one way or another during their lifetime. Come and learn the signs.

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

It was great to have Sister Margaret Schade and Brother Buck Turney back in chapter at the March meeting and also had a visit from Sister D. J. Krugen from Mesa Starlight #6. Please continue to keep all our sisters and brothers who are dealing with illness in your prayers.

Our golden chain was once again broken with the passing of Sister Patricia Nan Wilson, and once again with the passing of Brother Dolan A. Campbell. They were both long-time members and will be greatly missed by the families, friends, and O.E.S. sisters and brothers.

Continuing with the history of the chapters that make up Arcadia Chapter, I will focus on Century Chapter #10 in Clifton. Worthy Grand Patron, J. J. Sweeney granted a dispensation on February 15, 1902 to organize a chapter in Clifton with seventeen members. The name of Century was well chosen as it was so soon after the Twentieth Century began. When Grand Chapter met the following November it did not find this Chapter quite ready for a Charter, so it continued for another year under dispensation. The Clifton Chapter became #10 on November 12, 1903, with warm endorsement of both Grand Matron and Grand Patron. The membership increased from 26 to 37 in one year. The Chapter grew but the members were scattered, leaving a small number to carry the burdens of Chapter work. The Chapter has a fine reputation for charity, fellowship, and hospitality. This Chapter has been honored twice with the election of a favorite son as Worthy Grand Patron Brother James S. Cromb in 1906 and Brother Fred J. Fritz in 1949. Many members have been honored by appointments through the years and Grand Martha in 1962 was Mrs. Edith Baker of Century Chapter. Last month I failed to mention that Arcadia #9 is justly proud of its two Worthy Grand Matrons, Sister Nellie Olney serving in 1911 and Sister Addie Lindsey serving in 1946. She also served on a General Grand Chapter Committee. Many members have given loyal service to the Grand Chapter, and Thomas Pierce served as Associate Grand Patron in 1962. 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.

See you at Chapter on Tuesday, April 11, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.