



Making good men better

GILA VALLEY TRESTLE BOARD

Safford Lodge #16 F & AM

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September 2017



From the
Worshipful Master
Douglas W. Jones

Greetings and salutations my
Brothers,

Here's hoping your summer has
gone well. As September ar-
rives and fall advances, so does
our work in the Lodge. We are
pleased to have one Fellowcraft
Brother soon to advance to a
Master Mason.

And I am happy to say we have
a Candidate for the Masonic
Degrees knocking on the door -
whose petition is to be read at
our September stated meeting.

Come and enjoy the fellowship.
I'll see you in Lodge, Brother!

Yours in Brotherhood,

Douglas W. Jones

The Rough Ashler...

"The Rough Ashler is a stone taken
from the quarry in its rude and natural
state. It reminds us of our rude and
imperfect state by nature... The Per-
fect Ashler, is crafted from the Rough
Ashler by the tools of the workman
and signifies the state of perfection at
which we hope to arrive by a virtuous
education, our own endeavors and the
blessing of God.

This is symbolism in its simplest form
- rough stone, rough men. Square
stone, squared men. Rude and imper-
fect material... rough and unfinished
structure. Squared and perfect
stone... wall square, level and plumb.
Nothing could be simpler... and noth-
ing can be much more profound.

The monitorial interpretation of this
symbol seems too easy to grasp. One
finds it hard to believe that its only
meaning is the stated meaning. Albert
Pike, an eminent and influential Free-
mason, says that the symbols are the
instructions of Freemasonry; the lec-
tures but *partial* explanations of those
symbols.

Consider the Rough Ashler... the
stone in the quarry! Look at it from all
sides. Let your mind wander over its
rough surface, its shape, its size, its
material, hunting for a clue. If the tools
of the workman do not slip, eventually
it will be a Perfect Ashler. The work-
man must be very careful and cut
away the roughness little by little. He
must work patiently. He must work
skillfully. He must not chip and cut too
far... why not? *Why* must the work-
man be so careful? *Why* must he not
cut too far? - Because to do so
would be to cut into the Perfect Ashler
he is making.

The Perfect Ashler is already there,
inside the Rough Ashler. The Perfect
Ashler is not made by the workman. It
was made by the Almighty when the
rock was laid down in the quarry.

If the Rough Ashler is a reminder of
my rude and imperfect state by na-
ture, and the Rough Ashler contains
the Perfect Ashler all the time, then
my rude and imperfect state must also
contain the perfect man and Mason."

...excerpts from *The Master Mason*,
Volume IV, June 1927

Stated Communication:

**Tuesday, Sept. 5, 2017
7:00 PM at the Lodge Hall**

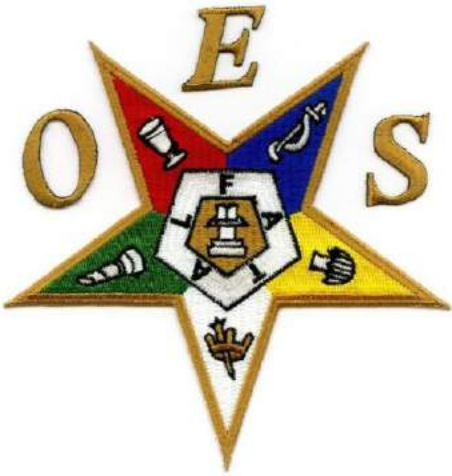
No host dinner at **El Charro**,
601 W. Main Street, Safford
5:30 PM. Ladies are invited.

**"Character, in the long run, is the
decisive factor in the life of an
individual and of nations alike."**

- Bro. Theodore Roosevelt



Order of the Eastern Star
Arcadia Chapter #9, Safford, AZ
September 2017



Summer is drawing to a close and that signals the beginning of a new Star year. We hope you had an enjoyable summer.

Recent Events: John Ratje was initiated into our Chapter on July 8th. He currently serves as the secretary of the Safford Lodge #16 F & AM. Our Chapter officers were assisted by Star members from Mesa Starlight #16 in Arizona, Jasmine #45 in New Mexico and Martha #11 in Montana. We really appreciate their assistance with the initiation and we are very happy to have John joining our Chapter.

The initiation was followed by a patriotic ice cream social to which members and their families of all the local Masonic family groups were invited. It was a great way to get together with our extended Masonic family and to cool off in the heat of July

The house cleaning that was mentioned in the previous newsletter is well on the way to being completed. The fire-proof cabinet has been completed and installed. The irreplaceable items – particularly those with historical value - are being stored in the new cabinet. A huge “**thank you**” goes out to all who helped to make this project a reality.

Upcoming Events: Worthy Matron Kerry has designated our September 12th meeting as a time to honor our founder, Robert Morris, to hear the latest news from Grand Chapter, as well as dealing with other items of business. Won’t you come and join in on the decisions that will be made for our Chapter in the future?

Alzheimer’s Support Group: Worthy Patron Phil informed me that the Alzheimer’s support group continues to meet the 2nd Thursday of each month beginning at 1:30 p.m. at the SEACUS office and again at the Masonic Lodge beginning at 7:00 p.m. Everyone is invited to attend.

Circle of Concern: There are several of our members who are in need of prayers and support. Cards are always appreciated.

Just a Thought: While reading past issues of Stars Over Arizona I noticed the statement “*Stars Make A Difference*”. It made me stop to think about what differences we will make this year.

We look forward to seeing you in Chapter on
Tuesday, September 12th at 7:00 p.m.