

# Arizona Masonry

Vol. 39, No 2

November 2015



# Arizona Masonry

November 2015

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Phillip Shulsky, Grand Editor

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The Editorial staff invites contributions in the form of informative articles, reports, news and other timely information (of about 350 to 800 words in length) that broadly relate to general Masonry. When possible, photographs or graphics that support the submission are encouraged. Pieces submitted should be typed, double spaced and sent via e-mail to:

**AZGLMasonry@gmail.com.**

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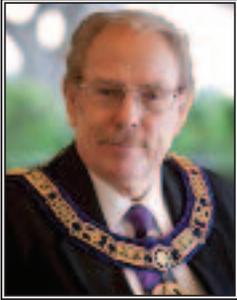
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# Grand Master's Message



When I became a Master Mason thirty five years ago, all I wanted to do is become the very best Master Mason I could be – now - I want to express my sincere and humble thanks for giving me the honor of serving you as Grand Master of Free and Accepted Masons of Arizona.

Your Grand Lodge Officers are dedicated and motivated members of this Craft and stand ready to serve you.

As Grand Master, I will bear the responsibilities of this office with a great concern for the betterment of Free Masonry in Arizona. My theme for the year is Strengthening Masonry – Brother by Brother, Lodge by Lodge.

**Join  
Together in  
Strengthening  
Masonry**

We need to take care of what we have – “our membership”. In the last five years, we have lost 1,372 or 274 Brothers per year to non-payment of dues – men who really wanted to be part of this Fraternity. What happened?

In the same five years, we voted on 1,312 petitions. Of those 1,312 petitions, 249 or 50 per year never became Master Masons. When we add these together, we are losing 3.28% per year. **WE WILL NOT SURVIVE AT THIS RATE!**

How can we turn this trend around? It all starts when we receive a new petition. We need to make sure we investigate the petitioner thoroughly, prepare him to become a Mason by informing him of the commitments of time, energy and study it takes to become a Mason.

We can start turning this around in the same manner which caused each and every one of us to become active in Masonry. Remember the Brother who took you under his wing – your mentor, your coach – the one who you looked up to and wanted to be just like him – do what he did for you – pass on those same feelings. Pass on those same feelings - encourage him, guide him and find him a job within this Fraternity.

On June 7th we kicked off a program called the Ashlar Award – a program to encourage ALL Masons to become active in their Blue Lodge. The Ashlar Award consists of different jobs which need to be completed such as attending degrees, visiting other lodges, bringing a non-Mason to a

social or fellowship event – be a top-line signer on a petition. Nowhere does it say to become an officer – it is all about taking an active roll within your lodge and helping your lodge grow. Paperwork describing the Ashlar Award program is available from your DDGM, DDGL, and on the Grand Lodge Web Site.

When a Brother becomes a Master Mason, it does not end there. Too many times after a man is raised, he disappears and four or five months later someone will say “where’s Joe – you know the one we raised almost 6 months ago.

Believe me, we are already starting to lose him. Don’t let this happen – take care of what we have and we will grow – find them a place from day one. If your Blue Lodge doesn’t have a place, there is the Scottish Rite, York Rite, Shrine, Youth Groups, Ladies groups. Each and everyone of them needs help. The important thing is to find a place where he will be comfortable and productive. If we do this, they will not be so quick to drop their membership. Of the 1,372 who were dropped for NPD, 83% of them did not belong to a concordant body.

“Adopt a Sister Lodge” – another program we are going to promote. We will be asking our stronger lodges in the state to offer a helping hand to lodges which are struggling by visiting and assisting them in any way possible. Assist by participating in the degrees – share ideas – put aside petty lodge differences and join together in Strengthening Masonry.

The passion we have for this fraternity and our brothers needs to rise to the top and move forward with these ideas I have put before you. There is nothing holding you back. Imagine new ideas without even trying – we will plod on in such a manner Masonry will become extinct.

Brothers, do you remember when you were a child and reading a story about a train who thought he could get to the top of the hill – that little train was huffing and puffing and kept saying I think I can, I think I can? Well, I’m here to tell you - THIS train is going to get to the top of the hill! I am asking you to get on board, take hold of these new programs and ideas - join with me and the other Grand Lodge Officers in Strengthening Masonry in Arizona, Brother by Brother – Lodge by Lodge!

*J. Michael Atchley*  
Grand Master

# Deputy Grand Master's Message



The mentor's goal is to assist the new Mason in becoming enrolled and oriented in the Lodge and help him become an enthusiastic, knowledgeable, and committed Mason. Mentoring sessions should be conducted in an atmosphere of warmth and informality with the new Mason being encouraged to ask questions and to offer

comments at any time.

What are some of the specific duties of a mentor? The mentor shall contact the candidate and act as a liaison with the Worshipful Master in scheduling his degrees. As a mentor, it is important to realize that just prior to the candidate's initiation is one of the most critical periods in the process of becoming a Mason. In many cases he does not have existing relationships with members of the Lodge and is likely to be anxious and possibly apprehensive. In addition, the mentor needs to arrange a meeting with the Candidate before the date of his First Degree and invite him and his Lady to any open Lodge function.

It is essential to monitor the new member's comfort level and involvement in the Lodge through these periodic meetings.

The purpose of mentoring is to help a new member get adjusted and become familiar with what Masonic membership offers him in general and what his Lodge in particular will provide in the way of activities and programs, and to get him involved as rapidly as possible. A good mentoring program will not only enable a new member to get familiar with the Lodge policies and procedures as quickly as possible but will get him acquainted with the Lodge members and make him feel comfortable in his Lodge membership.

The mentor needs to maintain contact with the candidate during his progress through the Degrees and assist him in preparing for each Degree. The mentor should determine if the candidate has any particular Masonic friends or associations who would like to be invited to attend or assist in the conferral of the Degrees. Above all, the mentor should assist the new Brother and serve as a resource to help and aid him to become enrolled in the Lodge.

One of the most basic thoughts to communicate to the candidate is that his reception into Freemasonry should be approached with an open and receptive mind. He should

understand that none of the initiation process into which he is entering is intended to demean or to haze, but needs to be viewed as a method of light and instruction which allows each candidate to interpret the material presented in a way that is meaningful to him.

The mentor must underscore that Freemasonry emphasized the individual man by helping him strengthen his character, improving his moral and spiritual outlook, and broadening his mental horizons to be a better man to society.

The mentor should also reinforce that the principles of personal responsibility, tolerance, and virtue must be put into practice in his daily life.

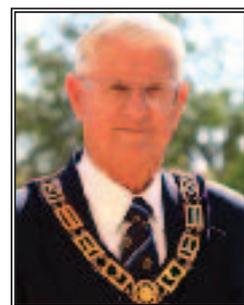
A solid mentoring program will ultimately produce new members that will provide manpower, new ideas, new enthusiasm, and new success.

*Robert W. Bradfield*

Deputy Grand Master

## Senior Grand Steward

Worshipful Art Montgomery is a graduate of the University of Arizona, graduating with a Master's Degree in Public Administration and a major in law enforcement administration. After graduating, he returned as an officer with the Sierra Vista Police Department in Arizona where he retired as Chief of Police in 2002. He



is also a graduate of the F.B.I. National Academy, past president of the F.B.I.N.A. Associates in Arizona, and past president of the Arizona Chiefs of Police Association.

He was raised in 1984 at King Solomon TL #5 in Tombstone and became Master of the lodge in 2014. He is a 32nd Degree Scottish Rite Mason, a Shriner, and member of High 12 #703.

Art resides in Sierra Vista with his wife, Nancy.

# Grand Editor's Message



It is indeed an honor to be appointed as your Grand Editor for this Masonic Year. I am a Past Master of Huachuca Lodge 53 in Sierra Vista and King Solomon Lodge 5 in Tombstone. I also belong to the Scottish Rite, York Rite, Eastern Star, and the National Sojourners. I have served this Grand

Lodge on the Charter and Bylaws and Awards committees and currently serve as the DDGL for Cochise County. My most beloved effort these days is as a founding Chapter Dad in Cochise Chapter 3053, Order of DeMolay.

I am no stranger to the work involved in publishing a quality newsletter and have learned that the most important factor does not come from my layout or editing, but from your participation. While the Grand Master does not want this publication to grow to enormous size, he does want it to not only discuss what is going on at the Grand Lodge level but at the local level as well.

Brothers, this newsletter is your place to communicate with hundreds, if not thousands of Masons. Use it to talk about things that are working well for your Lodge, or lessons you have learned from efforts that were not successful. It is very possible that something you have done can really help another Lodge that is struggling. Likewise, your discussion of what didn't work can save another Lodge from facing the same problems. Consider this forum as an official visit to numerous Lodges, all at once.

If you do desire to submit an article, I ask that it be sent to me in Microsoft Word (ideally) or in PDF (if you must). I typically will do very little editing to your written word but may do so if the article does not fit the available space or if there are major spelling or grammatical problems. You should also know that, based on the Grand Master's theme for the issue, I may hold your article for publication in the next newsletter. This can also happen if I simply run out of space.

Your articles should be NO MORE than 800 words. I use a 10 font in this newsletter and keeping your work to the word count keeps it at a page in length. If you have pictures or graphics, send those to me as well. Please send all the above to the following email address: [AZGLMasonry@gmail.com](mailto:AZGLMasonry@gmail.com).

I might also point out that if you have a flyer for an activity or event that I can compress into a small area, I can use it to fill small voids that often appear when articles are not quite long enough for a full page, but too large to start another. Please email these to me and I will keep them on file until the event has passed.

If you see something in this newsletter that you don't like or have some constructive ideas to make it better, I welcome them. I don't claim to have all the answers and am very willing to listen to your ideas.

Again, I appreciate the opportunity to serve you and this Grand Lodge. I believe strongly in the ideals of Masonry and am willing to do all within my power to see Masonry in Arizona grow Brother By Brother; Lodge By Lodge.

*Phillip Shulsky*

Grand Editor

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## Grand Lodge Longevity Recognition

The Grand Lodge of Arizona desires to recognize the contributions and longevity of our members. To this end aprons, specifically designed to recognize 50 (plus) years of service were acquired.



These aprons are available through the Grand Lodge and are also made for 55, 60, ect years of service.

# Grand Lecturer's Message



This Masonic year has started off with a bang and I have no doubt that the remainder of the year will be an exciting and successful one for Arizona Masonry. Some of you may remember that during the last Masonic year the Grand Master brought back the Deputy Grand Lecturers, who were tasked with providing ritual educational programs to the Lodges.

These programs or Lodges of Instruction were done on a trial basis with four being conducted in the metro Phoenix area, one in the northern district and one in the southern.

I am very happy to announce that the Lodges of Instruction will continue throughout the state this Masonic year as well. In fact, by the time you read this there will already have been programs conducted in Sun City, Kingman, Sierra Vista and Benson with many more on the way. The dates and locations for the upcoming Lodges of Instruction will be posted on the Grand Lodge website as they are determined.

The original LOI program goes over basic ritual etiquette/presentation, ritual mechanics, floor work, rod work, efficiency of movement and many of the small details that make a Degree go from average to extraordinary. We also discuss several ways in which our Lodges can mark their individual creativity in their ritual presentations and make their Degrees special for the candidates and unique to themselves.

We want to provide the Lodges with an outlet in which they can learn about the ritual in a fun, engaging and stimulating environment. In addition to the original Lodge of Instruction program, the Deputy Grand Lecturers can also provide assistance and instruction on topics of a more limited scope as well, if a Lodge requests it. We have made it our mission this year to give the Lodges a resource from which they can receive the encouragement and assistance they may need to make their ritual top-notch. We do not bring an air of judgment or a disposition of ritual enforcement to the Lodges. On the contrary, we strive to bring the Brethren together so that we may learn from one another, discuss the more nebulous elements of our ritual, and help each other understand the ritual better. In that sense we are part instructor, part facilitator, and part cheerleader. We want to see the Lodges take pride in their ritual, aim for excellence in their ritual, enjoy performing and teaching the ritual and we want our Brethren to express the ritual in a manner that is both fulfilling to themselves and meaningful for the candidate.

If you have any questions about the Lodges of Instruction or any other ritual education program, please feel free to reach out to myself or your respective Deputy Grand Lecturer. They are:

WBro. Jason Morrett, Northern District

WBro. James Xie, Central District

WBro. Chris Jordan, Southern District

WBro. Dave Mahon, Southern District

WBro. Philip Shulsky, Cochise County

I look forward to serving you all this year as your Grand Lecturer and I am excited for what is in store for the Craft in the near future.

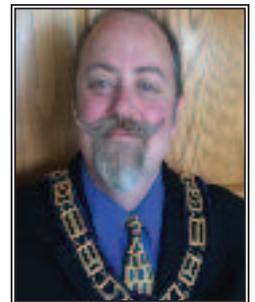
Yours Most Sincerely and Fraternaly,

*John A. Nichols*

Grand Lecturer

## Junior Grand Steward

Worshipful Brother Randy Jager resides in Tucson with his wife, Lynn. They are the proud parents of two wonderful children. Randy holds a Master's Degree in Accounting and has 30 years of experience in accounting and corporate management.



Randy is a Past Master of Oasis Lodge #52 and continues to serve as the Treasurer. He is an active member of the Tucson Scottish Rite, where he serves in many capacities and has been invested with the rank of Knight Commander Court of Honor. The Charter Venerable Master of the Tucson Knights of St. Andrew, Randy continues to serve that organization as the Secretary/Treasurer. He is an active member of the Tucson York Rite, and is serving in leadership roles there as well. He is a member of Sabbar Shrine, Red Cross of Constantine, and the Royal Order of Scotland.

A recipient of the Distinguished Service Award in 2011, Randy has also served the Grand Lodge of Arizona in several capacities. He has previously participated on several appointed committees. He continues to serve as the Finance Committee Chairman and District Deputy Grand Master of District 21.

# GRAND LODGE TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

By WB Eric Hannah

The Grand Lodge is pleased to announce the formation of a new GL Technology Committee. This committee will oversee the GL website, GL digital media profiles, all GL social media accounts, and research new and upcoming technology infrastructures.

Eric Hannah, PM, will chair this new committee and has selected Josh Hodo as Director of the Website sub-committee, Micah Wimmer as Director of the Digital Media sub-committee, and WB. Jason Michlowitz as Director of the Social Media sub-committee.

The following are just a “few” things that we have planned:

## Website

Soon, the website will be getting a new face and the ability to support a hefty new online platform. It is the goal of the newly established Website sub-committee to provide the craft with what they’ve been asking for: A serious online upgrade.

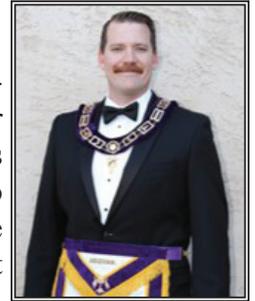
In the beginning, you will notice small changes, including the ability to purchase items and download forms. Eventually, you will see an entirely new, interactive, informative, and ultra-modern website! We are also working toward launching a smartphone App for your Android or Apple device that will link you directly to the Grand Lodge!

Under the guidance of Keith Rosewitz, the website has gained some strong placement on Google and other search engines. An additional goal of the committee is to add to previous efforts and further establish AZMasons.org as an authority site on the web, giving it the ability to rank highly on all search engines and reach more Masons and visitors than ever before.

## Digital Media

The Digital Media sub-committee will be producing professional quality video, audio, and photographic media. Video chats will include such things as: “Meet the Grand Line”, an “I am a Mason” campaign (get to know your brothers from around the state), and notable interviews/speeches.

Podcasts will focus on Masonic education as well as news in a manner that is geared toward both Masons and the public. You might listen to anything ranging from a series on the three appended bodies to an important message from our Grand Master. Either way, we believe you’ll enjoy these episodes in addition to the articles you already read.



Quality photography is essential to preserving our events and history. Therefore, we will start posting appropriate photos to a GL Instagram page so that everyone from around the world can see who we are and what we are doing. This also gives you the ability to easily find and download these photos.

## Social Media

Our Social Media sub-committee will be managing all GL social media accounts, which will include Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube. In short, we are dedicated to getting interesting and timely updates to you in multiple, accessible formats.

## Future Technology Infrastructure

Lastly, we want to make sure that we are constantly thinking about the future. We must stop chasing technology and start recognizing where it’s heading. Having a sub-committee that thinks about the future will pay off tremendously! Part of this payoff will include a new voting system for GL Communications that will cut down voting times by several hours.

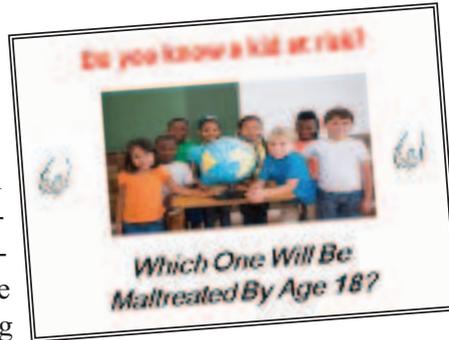
To close, we want to hear from you. If you have a great idea, let us know. If you like something or think we can be doing something better, let us know. If you want to get involved, LET US KNOW. Whether coding for the website, editing a podcast, taking pictures, or sending out Tweets, we can use your help!

Fraternally,  
*M. Eric Hannah, PM*

# MASONIC FOUNDATION FOR CHILDREN

By WB Jerry Badinger

To all Free and Accepted Masons of Arizona, Greetings! - From the Arizona Masonic Foundation for Children (AMFC). This Foundation represents you, the Masons of Arizona, and our Masonic Family as it attempts to address the deplorable condition of life circumstances facing our children in Arizona, and throughout this country.



We have been very busy at the Foundation. We cannot rest in our efforts to fight this scourge of AT RISK CHILDREN in our state. Let us look into the face of this Beast - Children's Defense Fund Data - Each Day in America: 4 Killed By Abuse Or Neglect; 5 Commit Suicide; 208 Arrested For Violent Crimes; 467 Arrested For Drug Crimes; 914 Babies Born To Teen Mothers; 2,712 Born Into Poverty; 4,475 Babies Born To Unmarried Mothers; 4,500 Children Arrested; 2,857 Students Drop Out; 16,244 Students Suspended. Also, I recently read an article from the JAMA about a study based on 5.7M CPS confirmed cases between 2004 and 2011 which found that 1 in 8 or 12.5% children in the US experienced a CPS confirmed case of maltreatment by age 18. In perspective this results in over 9.3M maltreated children in the US and in Arizona over 200,000. Remember maltreatment consists of (neglect or physical/sexual/mental abuse) and it is only one cause of at risk children. **That is the beast we fight everyday on your behalf.** Remember Brothers, a child at risk will remain at risk until someone intervenes – we are intervening on your behalf. Without this intervention – the Beast wins!

Our MSAP (Children at Risk) program is really a *“partnership”* serving at risk children of Arizona. Firstly, it is sponsored by us the AMFC who can facilitate the process however, we lack the required knowledge, skills, and opportunities for intervention with at risk children; Therefore, it is presented by professionals who are the original developers of MSAP and at risk experts, under the auspices of the National Masonic Foundation for Children. Lastly, it is attended by “educators” who interface with the children of Arizona everyday and can most effectively use the knowledge and tools to intervene in the lives of our chil-

dren who are at risk. Through this partnership, this intervention model is offered at no cost to the schools/ participants,

who are asked in return for their attendance & commitment for the entire 3 days - we provide a comfortable learning environment with professional and knowledgeable instructors.

MSAP is an intensive three-day training workshop for “educators” whereby they learn to: identify, intervene with, and create appropriate intervention plans for students that may be at risk. This workshop trains a core team of four to eight educators from a school building in how to intervene early and effectively with students that display patterns of behaviors that threaten their success at school and in life. MSAP involves practical practice sessions designed to simulate real events along with presentations on such subjects as: chemical dependency, depression and suicide, conflict, anger and violence, communication skills and intervention, family dynamics, enabling, life skills development, treatment and aftercare, and group process. Participants leave the training with: a specific plan for behavioral interventions created by their team at the session and based upon a selected case study child, and a system for implementing MSAP in their schools, and/or incorporating worthwhile MSAP concept/practices learned in the session into their current program. They gather the data, complete the necessary paper work, and develop a school based action plan for the child. As they progress through the model, subjects such as family dynamics, life skills for k-12, alcohol and drug abuse, depression, suicide, bullying and violence issues, developmental assets, enabling and



*continued on pg. 9*

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codependence, comprehensive planning, team work, and group dynamics are brought together in a comprehensive approach to intervention as a process not an event.

One of our most recent class during the week of July 20th 2015 was at The East Valley Institute of Technology (EVIT) in Mesa, which is one of the best resources Arizona's students have to guarantee themselves success. Upheld as a model for career and technical education by the U.S. Department of Education, EVIT provides students with the advanced skills and training needed to thrive in today's competitive job market. EVIT adds to a student's academic instruction with hands-on learning provided by experienced professionals and excellent resources. By allowing students to earn elective credit in more than 30 occupation-specific programs, EVIT enhances the future of every type of student. EVIT programs are tuition-free to high school students who live in 10 East Valley school districts – Mesa, Scottsdale, Fountain Hills, Tempe, Apache Junction, Chandler, Gilbert, Higley, Queen Creek and J.O. Combs. **In addition to the teams from EVIT, teams from 2 other Phoenix area Districts attended.** Thanks to this EVIT experience, these districts will now become aware of our program.

## HOW CAN YOU HELP?

The AMFC is a **statewide organization**. Just last year we had enough money and interest to conduct classes in Tucson, Sun City, and Phoenix. Given: (1) we have the money (\$10K – \$14K per class), (2) we have a minimum of 30 – 40 educators to attend (80 is preferred), and (3) we have a facility to conduct the class - We will put on a class anywhere in the State of Arizona. Getting the money is mostly on us and we are limited by the actual amount of dollars that are donated or obtained by winning grants etc. Classes we have had in Holbrook, Tucson, and Sun City where paid for by funds provided outside our fundraising, by the educators. Where we need help is in obtaining the educators. That requires some contact support by someone local and familiar with that School/District, you. Look at the **Arizona Public Schools Overview:** Number of Students - 1,079,373 Number of Arizona Schools- 2,459 Number of Arizona School Districts- 742. How does one organization of part time volunteers reach out to that many entities and have strong enough relationships to foster attendance? Can't be done without help!

## SOME OTHER EASY WAYS TO SUPPORT THE AMFC

### ARIZONA MASONIC LICENSE PLATES



Order yours at MVD Offices or online from ServiceArizona.com. The initial cost is \$25. Almost 70% (\$17) of the fee goes to charities supported by Arizona Masons. Proceeds from the sale of the Arizona Masonic License plates are being divided equally between the Arizona Masonic Foundation for Children & the Arizona Masonic Charities by the Grand Lodge Trustees. **So intervene in the life of an at risk child's and support the AMFC – BUY YOUR PLATES NOW**

### AMAZON SMILE

If you shop on Amazon.com they have a mirror image website to [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) called AmazonSmile at [www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com), both of which function exactly alike except, when first visiting AmazonSmile, customers are prompted to select a charitable organization from almost one million eligible organizations. In order to browse or shop at AmazonSmile, customers must first select a charitable organization. For eligible purchases at AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price to the customer's selected charitable organization. Simply select the Arizona Masonic Foundation for Children or go to <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/86-0839037> to automatically select the foundation. Once you do that, simply go out to [www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com) for all your purchases and even if you forget and go to the regular site it will prompt you to go to AmazonSmile to make your purchase and benefit the Arizona Masonic Foundation for Children. Easy! Peasy!

### DONATIONS

We extend a very grateful thank you to all who have supported us over the past 18 years. Remember we are a 501.C.3 and your donation is tax deductible. Make your check payable to Arizona Masonic Foundation for Children or AMFC and Mail to P.O. Box 32605 Tucson, Arizona 85751-2605. You may also use Pay Pal at our website [www.foundation4children.org](http://www.foundation4children.org) if you desire.

Fraternally,

*Jerry Badinger, President*

Arizona Masonic Foundation for Children

# AZ CHIP

By Darrell Mandrell, DDGM District 9

“According to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, roughly 800,000 children are reported missing each year in the United States -- that's roughly 2,000 per day. Of those, there are 115 child "stranger abduction" cases each year, which means the child, was taken by an unknown person.”

The Arizona Child Identification Program is alive and well throughout the state and the number of request for our services are growing. There are numerous lodges that are conducting events either as an individual lodge or partnering with another event. Last year lodges throughout Arizona logged just over 900 children that received this service.

I encourage each lodge that has CHILD- ID computers to reach out to your community and do these worthwhile events. Reach out to your local businesses, police department, fire departments to assist with these events. Each community usually has an annual event of some sort that you could piggy-back onto. This will assist with getting your lodge involved with the community and will develop that bond and possibly even a potential candidate or two. Even if the event is small in nature, and only 1 child is fingerprinted, that could be the child that is one day missing and valuable information could be provided to law enforcement to expedite the search process.

One of the services that the updated program offers is an ID card for seniors or adults with a medical condition. There are a growing number of adults with Dementia or other memory condition that walk away from their home or a care facility and become lost. This is equally as common in today's society as a missing child.

“Current statistics indicate that about 60 percent of persons suffering from Alzheimer's or Dementia will wander. This makes the potential pool of wanderers around 3,000,000 individuals.”

With the growing number of the request for these type events from various care facilities a separate waiver is being sought for liability to safeguard the lodges. More on this portion will follow in the near future.

Keep up the good work and promote this program every chance you get.



## In Memory MW James Sebastian

Most Worshipful Brother James Whitley Sebastian entered into the Celestial Lodge above on October 30, 2015. Masonry has lost a very bright light, one which will diffuse slowly as it is passed from brother to brother in the many good stories about him; a light which will never be forgotten.

Most Worshipful Brother Jim was a true leader and mentor in our fraternity. Most notably, he served as Potentate of Sabbar Shrine in 1999 and as Grand Master of Free and Accepted Masons of Arizona from June, 2005 until June, 2006. Most Worshipful also served as the head of many Masonic bodies during his Masonic career, all of whom he proudly served.

The passing of Most Worshipful Brother Jim is of such significance it is as if to say it's like the Grand Architect removed the sun and replaced it with a candle; that much light has been lost to us all. Through gentle recollection may we find happiness during this change and may those recollections bring us the joy to diffuse the sorrow we now feel.

The Grand Lodge extends its heart out to all of our families at this sad time, but particularly to Norma and the Sebastian family for their loss.

# LODGE OF SORROW

By WB Thomas Leslie Jr., PM, Eloy Lodge #46

Sadly, I have attended the funeral services for several of the Brothers of Eloy Lodge #46 this past year. The most recent funeral service was held on the evening of June 22, 2015. Three days later, on June 25, a number of Eloy Lodge #46 Brethren were attending a practice related to an upcoming 1st degree conferral for two new candidates on July 23, 2015. At the end of the June 25 practice session, a brief discussion ensued concerning opening a “Lodge of Sorrow.” Specifically, one of the Past Masters of Eloy Lodge #46, wondered if a “Lodge of Sorrow” could be opened.

Upon returning home, after the June 25 practice session, I used the “search function,” of my home computer, to rummage through the *Constitution and Statutes of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Arizona*, in pursuit of the terms “Lodge of Sorrow” and “sorrow.” My hunt did not yield any information regarding either search entry. I then began searching online for “Lodge of Sorrow” rituals. This time my search was fruitful. That is, I found numerous listings concerning opening, conducting and closing a Lodge of Sorrow. It appeared that a number of Masonic Grand Lodge jurisdictions, in states other than Arizona, had existing rituals concerning a “Lodge of Sorrow.” I also found mention of existing “Lodge of Sorrow” rituals prepared by the Prince Hall and Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. However, I did not find a “Lodge of Sorrow” ritual for use in Arizona, by the Arizona Grand Lodge. Coincidentally, subsequent to the July 25, 2015, practice session, I received an email from Most Worshipful Bro. J. Michael Atchley, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Masons of Arizona, indicating that if you have “any questions, please give me a call or drop me a note.” So, I sent an email “note” asking him if an Arizona “Lodge of Sorrow” ritual existed. The Grand Master quickly responded to my email with a few questions of his own. My “Lodge of Sorrow” discussions with the Grand Master, concluded during a face-to-face meeting on July 7, 2015, when he (1) informed me that there was not an Arizona “Lodge of Sorrow” ritual and (2) asked if I would accept a Grand Lodge assignment to prepare a draft “Lodge of Sorrow” ritual. I accepted. At this time, I think development a draft “Lodge of Sorrow” ritual will involve at least the five work tasks listed below.

1. Finding and reading as many existing “Lodge of Sorrow” rituals as I can find free online, or as necessary, purchasing commercially available, existing “Lodge of Sorrow” rituals from Amazon, Barnes & Noble, etc.
2. Develop a statement of purpose as to why Masons might want to open a “Lodge of Sorrow.”
3. Compile a bibliography of the “Lodge of Sorrow” rituals I reviewed.
4. Develop a Glossary of terms related to a “Lodge of Sorrow.”
5. Solicit suggestions from Brothers I think might be able to assist me in completion of my assignment.

Stand by for further updates...

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## The Grand Lodge Ashlar Award



The Ashlar Award is a means of recognizing members who actively participate in Lodge, and to encourage members to engage in programs, events and activities conducted or sponsored by their Lodge. All Arizona Masons are eligible to earn the Ashlar Award. In nearly all cases, if you are active in your Lodge, you are already doing everything required to earn the award. Award criteria and forms are available on the Grand Lodge Webpage.

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2	George Weil	1, 14
3	Cal Magness	7, 13, 38
4	Clay Howard	6, 62
5	James E. Gier	70
6	Thomas E. Schnell	36
7	Gus Portillo	66, 74, 81
8	James W. Wild	41, 49, 86
9	Darrell D. Mandrell	20, 69, 75, 85
10	Thomas A. Leslie, Jr.	30, 46
11	L. Grant Hays	5, 53, 77
12	Geoffrey R. Cummings	15, 43
13	Donald M. Moyer	52, 60
14	Kirk T. Lockett, Sr.	29, 50, 58
15	Marlin "Mick" S. Easthouse	10, 16, 55
16	W. Carl Melton	31, 72, 73
17	Robert Hill	11, 71
18	M. Eric Hannah	23, 42, 82
19	Timothy W. Williams	17
20	Mark H. Nielsen	3, 9, 24
21	Randal S. Jager	4, 32, 56
22	Josue Cuevas	2, 83, 88
23	James E. Watson	35, 45, 87
24	Ward C. Desplinter	12, 19

## District Deputy Grand Masters

Northern	Jason Morrett	1, 6, 7, 13, 14, 22, 38, 62, 64, 68, 70, 79
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Southern	Dave Mahon	4, 11, 17, 32, 36, 41, 46, 49, 52, 56, 60
	Chris Jordan	66, 71, 74, 81, 86
Cochise County	Phillip R. Shulsky	5, 10, 12, 16, 19, 53, 55, 77

# THE DARK PASSENGER

By Jason B. Stryker, P.M.

Beware my Brothers of your dark passenger, that part of all of us that hates and is intolerant. Be mindful of the signs in you that he is approaching. We as human beings must understand that we are not special little snow flakes, designed by a Man in the sky with a staff and beard.

The sooner we as a human race understand that we are all the same, made of the same building blocks, have the same hopes and dreams, the sooner we will have a collective understanding of our place in life; we will be able to see the world for what it is and where we fit in its grand scope.

Our time on this planet is short, our impact less than we would like to think. If we are to survive as a species we must come to the understanding that the bad and terrible things that we do to each other are not caused by a devil or demons, but by that imperfect part of our nature, the dark passenger within us that is easily led to destruction. We have to stop blaming the actions of ourselves and others on things that don't make any logical sense. People are the way they are not because they are born bad, or evil, but because of the Culture, Language, Family, and experiences they knew as a small child. These factors, along with some pre-dispositions common to our species, shape who we are. Understanding nature versus nurture in our makeup is key to the understanding of our individual and species' complexities. It is key to understanding that there are multiple rights and multiple wrongs.

When we see this, we see that right and wrong exists only in a general sense because right and wrong depends greatly on our own personal experiences, language, culture, morals, etc. – there is always subjective interpretation on our part based upon what and how we have learned. We are blood and guts, carbon and oxygen - a life form that has been shaped over hundreds of thousands of years, whose nature it is to dominate and to survive. By extension of this thought, the faiths and religions we carry with us have multiple rights and multiple wrongs - having been wrapped around us with all the rest.

Masonry provides a framework wherein a man can study himself and the world around him in order to live with an understanding of what is real and what is imaginary. There is the part of man that inherently has faith, a part of man that loves. What organized, dogmatic religion has done is to exploit that inherent malleable goodness, subvert it to its own agendas, and call it

something else in the context of worship, masking its true nature from the individual and walling off that awareness of his true nature in dogmatic strictures and format.

Masonry differentiates itself from religion in maintaining that no man should be required to worship, nor be driven to a singular religious sect or opinion. Instead, Masonry frames an individual's faith and devotion in his own manner to a Supreme Being as paying that rational homage to the deity which at once constitutes his duty and his happiness. Let us not be true believers, Brothers, to the exclusion or dismissal of others. Let us be thinkers, let us learn to subdue our passions and improve ourselves in Masonry.

All men are equal and imperfect; let us help each other learn about the world around us; let us learn to separate truth from fiction. Masonry guarantees nothing; there is nothing comforting about it. It is work. Actually, the more one understands Masonry, the more one understands that Masonry is pulling us in a particular direction, a direction distinctive and distinctly our own, forged in the crucible of degrees which ignite self-awareness, world awareness, and spiritual awareness beyond our nurtured selves. This being true, if we are to accept this growth of good men into better men, then Masonic lodges should be places of discussion, knowledge, and learning – especially in these areas. Which brings us to the central question posed by the existence of the dark passenger: Why is there no talk of religion allowed, no talk of the forces that have torn brother from brother for thousands of years? We shy away from religious awareness and discussion? Why allow ourselves to have been made weak by the success of our dark passengers to wall off religious awareness?

Masonic tradition informs us that it is simpler to mandate no discussion than to allow discussion; it is more fraternal to avoid the unpleasantness of understanding or challenging the awareness of another's beliefs. In our Ancient Landmarks we are saying this to ourselves; we are saying we are too weak to subdue our passions, too inculcated in our particular faiths to withstand the scrutiny of others, too much the lesser man to overcome the dictates of the dark passenger within: we must not discuss religion.

Yet, we must be strong enough and aware enough to understand

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what religion is: Man using his version of truth to dominate and control others, for if there is evil, surely this is it.

Our Ancient Landmarks are to be kept inviolate – and yet our Ancient Landmarks exhort us to become better men. The secret of Masonry brought to this inherent conflict in our Landmarks is our growth in our ability to read the signs, to test them by our standards, and to accept the truths (your truths) of nature and the

universe for what they are, not what other people claim them to be – and to move beyond the need to challenge them in others, but not with blind acceptance.

Beware the man who claims to know the truth, who professes the truth, who proselytizes the truth, for it is to be assured he is in darkness! Do not be led astray or fenced away from inner awareness and understanding by the external trappings of religion. Throw off their dark passengers - and look to the light within.

## STRENGTHENING THE COMMUNITY BRICK BY BRICK

By WB Tom Leslie, Eloy Lodge 46

The first time I heard about Masonic Lodge 13 was at the Grand Lodge Officers Retreat held in Casa Grande in March. Lodge 13 was mentioned at the Retreat, because an arson fire had destroyed all but its pillared façade. The burned remains of the 118 years old lodge are located at 315 N. Kinsley Avenue. As a result of the fire, the roof of the two-story structure fell in and the Lodge’s interior was completely gutted. The photo below shows, the lodge’s exterior walls also remain.



Historically speaking, the Kinsley Avenue building was the third location for the Winslow Masons, who first formed the lodge in 1896 and gathered at the Palace Hotel, then in

the upstairs rooms of the Elks Lodge. Construction of the Kinsley Avenue Lodge building was begun on September 1923 and completed on February 1924. The Kinsley Avenue Lodge building contained a significant number of invaluable items including antiques, regalia from the 1800s, a display of first edition Bibles, very ornate Masonic furnishings with Middle East designs and Masonic symbolism referencing King Solomon’s Temple from the 1896 World Fair. Tragically, most of these were destroyed by the fire. Senior Steward Ken Evans told Arizona Republic reporter Linda Kory, “the goal of the lodge has been and will continue to be to strengthen the community, preserve our country’s freedoms and support our families.”

On September 6, 2015, I went to Winslow to see how the rebuilding project was progressing. As I neared Winslow I noticed

a sign indicating a portion of S.H. 87 had been adopted by Winslow Masonic Lodge 13. On the way to Lodge 13, I visited the “Standing on the Corner” Park. I had read about this park and decided to stop and look around before proceeding to Lodge 13. As soon as I exited my truck I noticed a life-sized bronze statue representing a 1970’s man standing on the corner. Inscribed donor bricks surrounded the ground surface around the bronze statue. One 8 x 8 dark colored brick, bore the Masonic square and compasses and the name of the Winslow Masonic Lodge. I later found out that the purchase of donor bricks help maintain the park, revitalize Winslow’s Historic Downtown, build additional parks, etc.

I now had two examples that support Bro. Ken Evans statement regarding strengthening the community. This photo shows a close-up of the Lodge’s commemorative brick.



Continuing northeasterly on Kinsley Avenue, I arrived at what is left of Lodge 13, which is the remains of the lodge’s façade and side and back walls, all surrounded by a chain-link fence. From my perspective, as “an outside the fence observer”, nearly a year after the October 2014, fire, little has changed. Hopefully the next time I pass through Winslow, progress of the rebuild of Lodge 13, will be more evident. Who knows, the lodge might be even be completely rebuilt by my next visit.

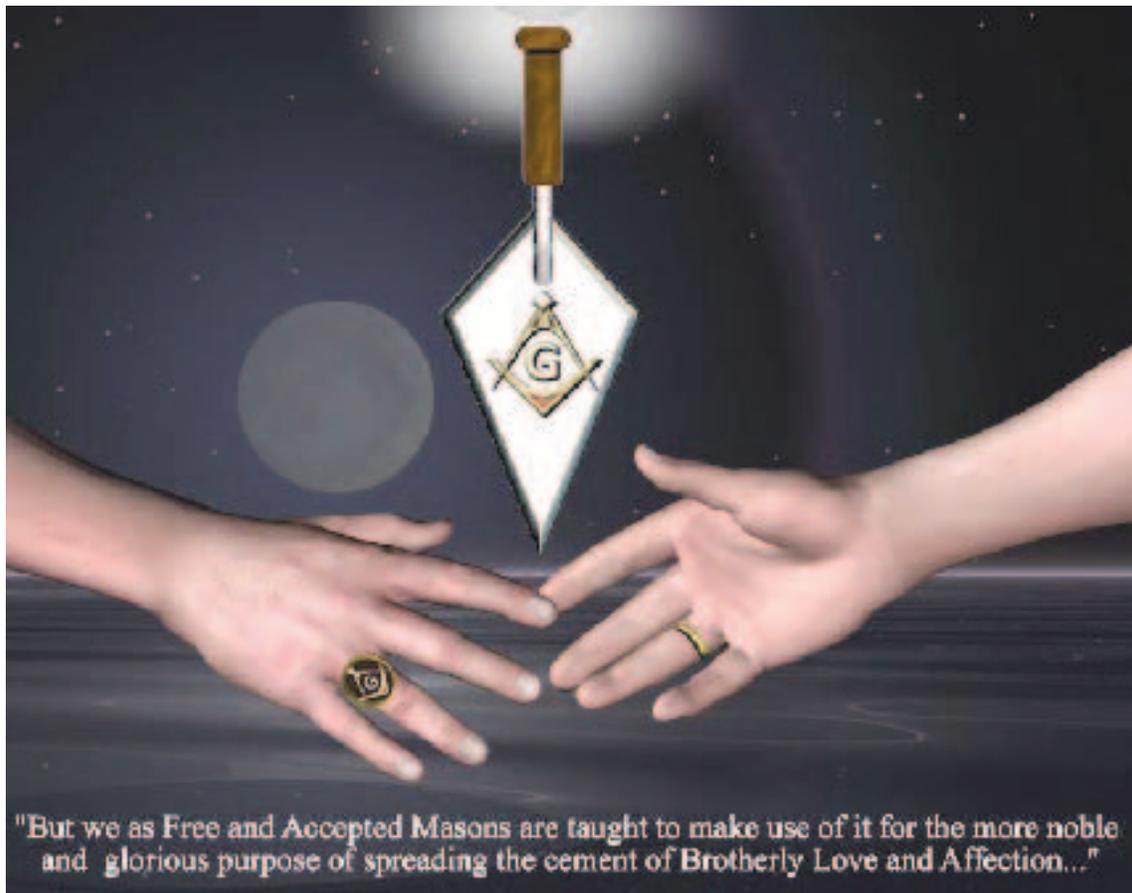
If you are looking for an interesting day trip, I suggest a visit to the historic Winslow, Arizona Masonic Lodge.

# Arizona Masonry

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Masons of Arizona

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"But we as Free and Accepted Masons are taught to make use of it for the more noble and glorious purpose of spreading the cement of Brotherly Love and Affection..."