

# Arizona Masonry

Vol. 36, No 5

May/June 2012



# Arizona Masonry

May/June 2012

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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: [arizonamasonry@gmail.com](mailto:arizonamasonry@gmail.com).

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Deadline for submission of articles for the next edition is August 15, 2012

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### GROTTOES ACTIVE IN ARIZONA:

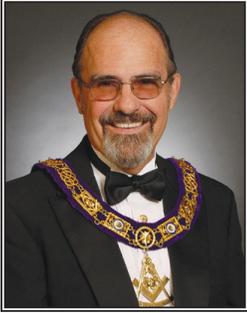
*a.k.a - Mystic Order of Veiled Prophets of the Enchanted Realm*

**Rameses Grotto** – Meets 1<sup>st</sup> Friday each month at 7:00 pm, at Peoria No. 31, 10220 N. 83<sup>rd</sup> St., Peoria. Info call Doug Robertson (602) 391-5634

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**Abbid Grotto** – Meets 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday each month at 6:00 pm, Kingman Odd Fellows Building, 2495 Butler Ave., Kingman. Info call Charlie Bidinger, (928) 681-3364. “A Social place for Master Masons.”

# Grand Master's Message



## Grand Master's Message

*There is no accounting for the perfection that is now demanded of a Grand Master. He must be as wise as Solomon, as just as Aristides, as patient as Job, as brave as Caesar, as temperate as Father Matthew, as shrewd as Hannibal and as chaste as a vestal virgin, and then make up his mind to be snarled at by every tousel cur who can't have his own way. — Arizona Grand Lodge proceedings, 1882.*

### **Ninety nine percent of all of the problems in our Fraternity are caused by one percent of our Brothers.**

It has not been the year any of us wanted. I know I certainly didn't. But circumstances determine actions and circumstances are often dictated by others. The issues with which I've had to contend have not been unique to me or this nearly ended Masonic year. But it fell to me to deal with them regardless of what else I'd hoped to accomplish.

I know there are brothers who blame me for this unsettled year and the controversy surrounding it. There are brothers who ask why I didn't prevent the troubles, why I didn't do *something* so none of this would have happened. Harmony is the strength of our society and they say it is my job to preserve that harmony, no matter what.

I only wish that I could have. I tried, brothers, I tried. But as I noted, circumstances are often determined by others. And as the quote above reminds us the criticisms directed against me as Grand Master are not unique to this time. They've been with us from the beginning.

So let me tell you my thoughts as best I can. It has been a handful of brothers who are responsible for the disharmony existing today in the Craft. Some of these have willfully distributed around the country misinformation about events here and decisions I've made. Understand this has not just been their view of events but rather lies spread for a purpose, lies meant to accomplish an end, an end that will be determined at this year's Grand Com-

munication. Some of these brothers have attached their names to these misrepresentations, most have distributed them anonymously, others have adopted pseudonyms.

I've had many personal reactions to their behavior but the strongest has been my deeply held belief that each of them should revisit their obligations. There is a way to disagree in Masonry; it is time honored and respected. These brothers chose to follow an alternate, disreputable course, one made easier by the prevalence of modern social media.

I would remind each of them, and their fellow travelers, that we are all Masons and have a responsibility to conduct ourselves accordingly. These brothers need to learn to subdue their desires and keep their passions within due bounds toward all mankind, particularly their brothers in Freemasonry. I ask that they recall the point within the circle and the lessons it teaches us.

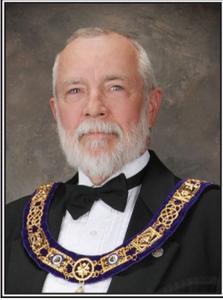
For some months, and even today, certain brothers are campaigning for positions in the Grand Line rather than working to improve our wonderful Fraternity. What has become apparent to me and many others is that the true objectives of these critics of myself and the Grand Line has been to accomplish personal agendas. They care not that the machinations employed to achieve unbridled ambitions are contrary to the welfare of the Craft.

What has hurt me the most has not been the personal attacks upon me. It is one thing to disparage the Grand Master, it is quite another to attack the brothers serving in the Grand Line, merely to accomplish the vainglory of misplaced aspirations.

I know what I've done, I know the circumstances that led to my doing it, I know my reasons for acting. These were always for the best interests of our beloved Fraternity. The attacks against the other brothers serving in the Grand Line have saddened me almost beyond my abilities of expression. These fine brothers have done nothing but their best for the Craft this past year and for many years before. They've sacrificed and labored quietly for the good of all Arizona Freemasons. These scurrilous and untrue attacks against them and their

*continued on pg. 5*

# Grand Editor's Desk



Brethren,

Welcome to Sedona and the 130th Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Arizona.

Due to budgetary constraints this issue of Arizona Masonry is not being mailed out, it is only available here at the Annual Communication.

We have had quite a ride this Masonic year!

I don't think that there is a single Masonic Principle that has not been tested. One that was especially tested was that of Freemasonry being a forum for lifelong learning!

This year, I am pleased to say that we disproved a very long standing belief of Grand Editors; that being that no one takes the time to write and submit articles. My Brethren, I am here to tell you that I have had very little trouble in obtaining content for our magazine. In fact in some months I have received more articles than could be published; further I have seen excellent content on the Web and in many of our Jurisdiction's Lodge Trestleboards. All I can say is WELL DONE MY BRETHREN!

Now to this issue of Arizona Masonry

## On the Cover

It seems to me that the most appropriate design for the cover of this issue would be either the winding staircase or the 47th Problem of Euclid. I chose the 47th Problem of Euclid because when I view this symbol I am reminded of all of the confusion we face in both the inside and outside worlds, but above all it reminds me that there IS a solution.

For the actual cover design we are once again indebted to the digital pen of Worshipful Brother Stephen McKim.

## Grand Master's Message

In his article this month, our Grand Master again addresses the controversial issues surrounding our Grand Lodge Officers.

## From the Grand Masters of Arizona

The Past Grand Masters met on May 12<sup>th</sup> to review their concerns about the status of our Grand Lodge and to explore solutions. Included here is a copy of their letter to the Grand Master. Please note that 16 of the 20 living Past Grand Masters have their names on this letter. The absence of the remaining four (4) does not indicate disagreement with the conclusion, it merely means that at the time we (Arizona Masonry) went to press they had not been contacted.

## Charity

In this issue we see three excellent offerings from our Masonic Family. While we should always be proud of both the works of the Shrine and our Arizona Masonic Foundation for Children, I believe we should be especially proud of the works of our youth as demonstrated in the H.I.K.E. article.

## The Architect Began to Design....

In this issue Worshipful Brother George Weil offers his insight into the construction of our Masonic Edifice.

## Spring's Renewal?

MW Mike Bishop joins our contributing staff with his offering of an escape to a safer more peaceful place.

## A Sacred Trust?

Just what is the Sacred Trust of Freemasonry? In his article MW Jim Sebastian offers hope for our beloved fraternity and trust for the future.

## Free Will and Accord

In his second contribution, Brother Jeremy Borie reminds us that there is HOPE for our future

## One Clown's Opinion?

Brother Doug Fry (who most of us know by his pseudonym "BB Clown") is a first time contributor reminding us (as does the 4th Degree of the AASR) before you can enjoy the fruits of labor, you must first do the work

## On Investigating a Petitioner

Often the best way to prepare for the future is to look at the past. We are frequently reminded of this by Worshipful Brother Bill Gesswein, who publishes a weekly "Sunday Masonic Paper" which he sends to those who ask for it. This article is actually taken from Carl Claudy's "Old Tiler Talks".

## Our Mail Bag

This issue's mail bag contained a number of requests for advertisements in our magazine and the associated costs. Now that I have some eight issues under my belt and have a handle on the costs, I am in a position to develop the appropriate cost for ads. AND should the next Grand Master choose to allow me to continue as your Grand Editor you can expect the answers to this question in the September issue.

All of our readers are encouraged to submit articles, questions and comments. If you agree or disagree with the opinions of our writers let us know. If you have a suggestion for improvement, let us know that too.

Our address is:

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arizonamasonry@gmail.com

## Last Issue's Question?

Careful review of this issue will reveal the answer to last issue's quiz. I thank each of the submitters to this contest and will be delivering the Bolas shortly.

## Soft and Safe to Thee?

This Masonic Year many of our Brethren have passed through the Pearly Gates. Among those Brethren were several Past Grand Masters:

Charles Mason - Grand Master 1983  
David Porter - Grand Master 1990  
John Krom - Grand Master 2002

We will certainly miss all of our departed Brethren and we offer our condolences to their families.

*Dave*

*continued from pg. 3*

character have been unjust and unmasonic. They are just one unhappy example of how far some are prepared to go to advance their unsavory desire for advancement in the Grand Line.

Never in my 38 years as a Mason have I witnessed such hateful actions from those I've always considered brothers.

**Now is the time  
to move our  
Fraternity  
forward**

Each of you has a personal reaction to what has taken place since I was installed as Grand Master. Each of you has an opinion about my actions. Let me say now as clearly as I can that I have in every case, as much as humanly possible, acted in what I believed to be the best interests of our Craft. As Grand Master you are placed in a position to make very tough decisions, decisions that will not please everyone in the Fraternity. Nonetheless, these decisions must be made. The simple course would have been to sit back and wait out the year. I could not in good conscious or consistent with my obligation do that. And so I acted.

The real question here is what has been learned over the past six months that will make us better Masons. Each of us must look inward and answer that question. Regretfully, some will wear blinders and have learned nothing while others will rise above it all.

Let me concluded by saying how very grateful I am for the honor you did me last year and for the many honors I have received these past twelve months. For all the unpleasantness and disharmony that has occurred it has been my distinct privilege to serve you. It is my hope that upon reflection you will judge my actions in the kindest light and with the fraternal love with which I have sought to perform my every act as Grand Master. May the Great Architect of the Universe bless us and be with us all.

*Brook*

## Past Grand Masters of Arizona

May 12, 2012

Dear Most Worshipful Grand Master,

A group of eleven Past Grand Masters met on May 12<sup>th</sup> to determine if there is a need for us to express our viewpoint on the upcoming election of Grand Lodge officers.



Additionally, several who were not present are in agreement with our findings and have authorized their names to be included below.

We appreciate your pledge to have the issue of the Deputy Grand Master's suspension brought before the Craft prior to the election, so that the Craft can render its decision and the election be fair and open.

We are confident in the ability of the Craft to arrive at a fair and impartial determination of the issue.

We expect that the Annual Communication will be conducted in order and close with peace and harmony prevailing. To that end, we pledge our full support.

Sincerely and most fraternally,

Past Grand Masters of Arizona

Earl L. Wunder, PGM 1988  
Robert F. Hannon, PGM 1993  
Gerald H. Lankin, PGM 1995  
C. A. Metcalf, PGM 1996  
William B. Jeffers, PGM 1997  
Larry C. Shafer, PGM 1998  
Donald W. Monson, PGM 1999  
James H. May, PGM 2001  
Harold A. York, PGM 2003  
W. Thomas Brooker, PGM 2004  
James W. Sebastian, PGM 2005  
Rex R. Hutchens, PGM 2006  
David H. Lueblke, PGM 2007  
Donn E. Bernhardt, PGM 2008  
Michael T. Bishop, PGM 2009  
James W. Rowan, PGM 2010

# A Time For Renewal

## Spring's Renewal

By Michael Bishop

A few years ago, I clipped out an article by Paul Greenberg, the Pulitzer prize-winning editorial page editor of the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette. It reminded me of a connection I feel between a Masonic Lodge and a baseball park. In the article, Greenberg was speaking of opening day for the Arkansas Travelers, which happened to fall on Easter. If you are not a baseball fan, perhaps you won't understand this, but please make the effort. It could add to your appreciation of life.

*There was some hesitation about scheduling the opener on Easter. Would the heavens part and lightning strike? Why not on Easter? To a baseball fan, there's life and there's the off-season, and life is just getting started in April. God has got to be a baseball fan. He who transcends life itself would recognize a form of it. And that's the great thing about baseball; you enter another world as soon as you are past the turnstiles, leaving behind all those lesser things called real life. In these friendly confines, the only thing that counts is The Game.*

*Time is different in a ball park. Theoretically, a baseball game could go on forever by the timeless clock that governs baseball. It's a kind of eternity. The Travs decided to combine opening day with an Easter egg hunt. The best of both worlds. Besides, isn't that what Easter's about, renewal? "The game begins in the spring, when everything else begins..." to quote A. Bartlett Giamatti's little essay, poem, meditation on and love letter to baseball, "The Green Fields of the Mind."*

*The closest we may ever get to the sense of the world when it was first created is the opener of a Double-A baseball game somewhere in the American heartland, like Little Rock, Arkansas. The Trav's home uniforms are never so starchy white, the green grass stretching out from home plate never greener, the billboards around the outfield fence never so bright and freshly painted, and the sky so almost cloudless blue. Here past and present, nostalgia and promise blend. But baseball, like life, has its seasons. That this bright spring and long*

*summer will never end is only an illusion. Autumn will come. To quote Giamatti's poem to the game, "It breaks your heart. It is designed to break your heart." October is the cruelest month, when your team loses the World Series. But April? April is pure promise. But a broken heart is infinitely better than one that has never felt such a spring day, such a breeze, such a thrill of each step of the ritual, from the national anthem with the final words ("Play ball!") to the final "Ye're out!"*

*The game itself has passed like a dream, each play an infinite present for those absorbed in it.*

*Who won? Tulsa, I believe, by one run. But it scarcely matters. We've been recalled to life.*

When I was younger, I loved to play the game. The smell of the freshly cut grass, the watered dirt, the oiled leather, the sweat in my eyes. The sounds of the crack of the bat, the pop of the ball into the mitt, and the infield chatter. It was another world, apart from the complexities of everyday life. And I have always thought the lodge room gives me a similar feeling, an escape to a better and more peaceful place. A place that makes me feel good.



Most Worshipful Mike Bishop served the Grand Lodge of Arizona as its Grand Master in 2009

## The Architect Began To Design...

By George E. Weil

My Honored Brethren,

No competent builder erects a structure without first satisfying himself about the nature of the materials with which he proposes to build. Therefore, in Freemasonry, no Mason can properly build the temple of his own soul without first understanding the nature of the raw material he has to work upon.

An individual who first comes to knock on the doors of Freemasonry may be a man who has internal ingredients of chaos, a multitude of confused desires, thoughts, and passions. But, present even amidst the ordinary man is conscious of a higher and spiritual element in him, which he may cultivate or disregard.

**We must  
understand the  
nature of the  
raw materials**

To the literalist, unacquainted with the fact that in both Sacred Writ and the teachings of the Masonic Art, surface appearances are always intended to be transposed into spiritual values and that semi-historic characters are meant to be impersonations of philosophic facts or principles. Therefore, the education and enlightenment of our rites and rituals have a deliberate intent to slowly enlighten the initiate to rise above merely material facts and to dwell in the truer realm of ideas. Without this understanding, there is a small chance of the initiate receiving the great value of the spiritual force and vitalizing energy of their inherent ideas.

Every brother admitted into our ranks is by successive stages being prepared to become a Mason. We do not give out diplomas, rings or pins when a man signs a petition or application. The preparation of a man to be a Mason begins in his heart, it being the first springs of impulse that must originate from him and only him to move towards the doors of Freemasonry to await admission. His reflection through life and his acceptance into

our fraternity reflect upon all of us and ultimately we are responsible in helping him grow within our fraternity. It goes without saying but as a reminder that our fraternal and lodge customs are to be cherished and not whimsically shared among the profane and uninitiated. What is produced on the internet, or published by misinformed authors about our Order, and viewed on different historical television channels are not to be considered the base metal which forge our suit of armor.

The candidate to be initiated into Freemasonry does not fully comprehend the change that will be thrust upon him. It will be a change that will take time to fully appreciate but, it will be one that starts immediately through the ceremony he has allowed himself to participate in. The ceremonial preparations surround him, all of a significant character, to indicate to him that some great change is to take place in his moral and intellectual condition. He is already beginning to discover, that the design of Masonry is to introduce him to new views of life and its duties. He is to commence with new lessons in a new school. There is to be, not simply a change for the future, but also an extinction of the past; for initiation is, as it were, a death to the world and a resurrection to a new life.

He has come to Freemasonry freely; he has freely consented to abide by its conditions if it would but instruct him; Freemasonry has taken him at his word and he feels the logic of the situation.

The world is left behind — the chains of error and ignorance which had previously restrained the candidate in moral and intellectual captivity are to be broken — the portal of the Temple has been thrown widely open, and Masonry stands before the neophyte in all the glory of its form and beauty, to be fully revealed to him, however, only when the new birth has been completely accomplished.

The initiate is at the gates of wisdom symbolized by the

*continued on pg. 8*

# Philosophy

continued from pg. 7

door separating the preparation room from the Lodge proper. We as established members of this School of Mystery have made a decision to let him enter and begin his studies. Bearing in mind that we feel he is ready to begin his spiritual journey. Being vouched for that his body and soul are properly purified and is therefore attuned to receive our great spiritual fraternity which, concealed behind the exoteric rite, forms the living power of the Entered Apprentice Lodge. Consequently, he must devote himself to the study of his own being and its mysteries and complexities.

The silent lessons of the Lodge room, the platforms and the steps, the dramatic teaching of the clothing and all the other symbolisms produce suggestive effects upon the candidate's and Master Mason's mind, but, without great work on his part to understand these symbols there can be no incorporation of them to his subjective mind.

**To begin well is the most likely means to end well** Where the meaning of the symbolism is not known, Freemasonry is but little more than a mere fraternal organization and her beautiful, dramatic lessons are almost if not entirely wasted. The contemplation of symbolism in our rituals and ceremonies must be an understanding one.

There are Master Masons who are brethren in name only, for their failure to exemplify the ideals of our Craft make them unresponsive to the teachings and purpose of Freemasonry. They are the ones who stand on the top of Fools Mountain pretending that they hold the keys to enlightenment in our Craft. Not really understanding that their life is the sole password which admits them to

the true Masonic Lodge, and from within must build those qualities which will make possible their true understanding of the Craft.

**He is to commence with new lessons in a new school**

To begin well, is the most likely means to end well; and it has been properly remarked, that when order and method are neglected at the beginning, they will be seldom found to take place at the end.

What do you get from our Craft? Look well to your heart for the answer.



*Worshipful Brother, Weil is a Past Master Of Scientia Coronati Research Lodge #4 and is the current Worshipful Master of Aztlan Lodge #1*

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## A Sacred Trust

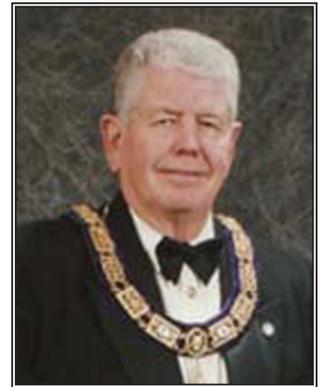
By James W. Sebastian

Forty five years ago when I first entered the doors of a Blue Lodge, a group of men whom I very much respected, told me that I would learn the degree work and then in fullness of time I would be invested with a portion of the “Sacred Trust” of the Fraternity of free and accepted Masons. Men like Brothers John Prater, Del Secrist, Al Buehman, Bill Dunipace, S. Barry Casey and J. Lewis Monical tested me at every opportunity and then when they believed that I was ready, I was told that the degree work was a lesson in living and that they would give me lessons in preserving it, for they said that it was their job to prepare me and other young (at that time) men not only for leadership but for preservation of this most “Sacred Trust” of Masonry.

They told me not to so much dwell on what Masonry means but what Masonry means to me. Not to look at what Masonry does for me but what I as a Mason could do for others, and to live in such a manner that others would wish to emulate my example. They taught me that the lodge and all other bodies were, like it or not, a political arena, that the first law of politics was compromise and that compromise for the greater good was not a concession. I was told that my actions would be the lessons for me to communicate to future generations so they would understand that Masonry was a way of living to be preserved for the good of all mankind, not just for the members of the Masonic Fraternity.

Today as the moral fabric of our great nation, and indeed all the world, is tested both from without and within, it is the “Sacred Trust” of our membership to preserve a lifestyle and a code of conduct that most of the world outside would find outdated and irrelevant. As my shadow grows longer and my years pass, I see a group of young Masons like, but not limited to, Chad Burks, Shawn Lowery, Scott Donham, Jason Stryker and Jim Baker who have the vision for the future far far beyond my waning years. So as time grows nearer for my small piece of this “Sacred Trust” to be turned over to the next

incarnation of our Fraternity, I doubt not that it will be preserved and enhanced by the diligent effort that these men are putting into that “Sacred Trust” that will all too soon, although we know not when, be handed over to them. Be strong my Brothers, for the tests will be many, the earthly rewards few but your part of this “Sacred Trust” must be, by your efforts, preserved, enhanced and prepared for passage as all Masons have done in all ages before you.



*Most Worshipful James Sebastian Served the Grand Lodge of Arizona as its Grand Master in 2005*

### WE ARE PROUD TO ANNOUNCE THAT THUNDERBIRD LODGE #15 IS NOW CHANDLER THUNDERBIRD LODGE #15

We are still offering Masonic Veterans Pins to our Brothers at a price that is just slightly above our cost.

We have now distributed over \$300 to our Arizona Masonic Youth Groups and we will continue to donate all profits from the sale of these pins to our Arizona Masonic Youth.



If you would like one, or more, pins just send \*\*\$2.00 for each pin to:

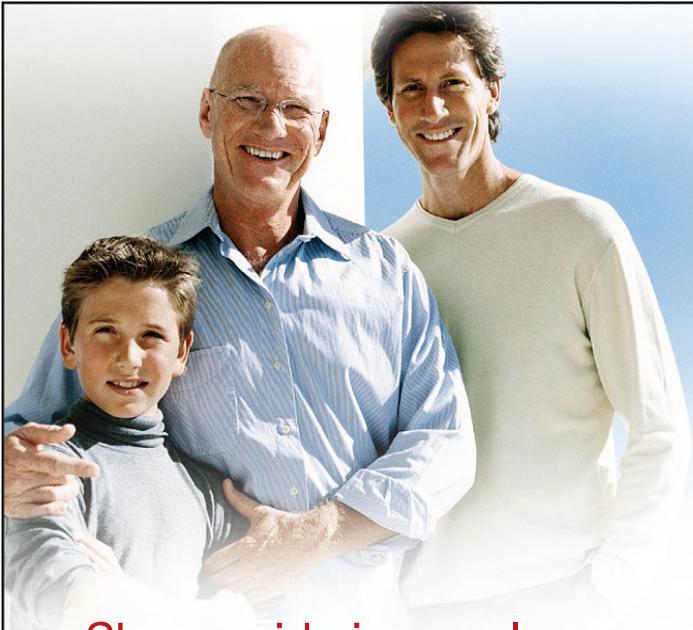
**Chandler Thunderbird Lodge #15  
c/o George Stablein  
P.O. Box 6794  
Chandler, AZ 85246**

*(This address is for pin orders only!)*

**Please make your checks payable to Chandler Thunderbird Lodge #15**

**PLEASE ADD THE FOLLOWING TO YOUR ORDER TO COVER OUR SHIPPING COSTS**

**1-5 PINS PLEASE ADD \$3.00  
6-10 PINS PLEASE ADD \$4.00  
11 OR MORE PINS PLEASE ADD \$5.00**



# SHRINERS LEGACY

GENERATIONS OF  
BROTHERHOOD

## Show pride in your legacy.

For many men, being a Shriner is a family tradition. From one generation to the next, Shriners have enjoyed a unique brotherhood and shared in an important mission.

The Shriners Legacy Program is a way to show your pride in being a Shriner and to celebrate your part in the special brotherhood that comes from membership.

The Shriners Legacy Program is open to any male family member\* related to a Shriner, including:

- **Fathers** • **Grandfathers** • **Brothers** • **Uncles**
- **Sons** • **Grandsons** • **Nephews** • **In-laws**

## Be a part of special Legacy events.

Temples will be encouraged to host Legacy nights to honor members of the program. Legacy members in all generations will be invited to participate in a variety of fun events and activities with their family members and fellow nobles.

## Wear your Legacy pin with pride.

To show our gratitude for you and your family continuing the Shriners legacy, Shriners International has designed an elegant gold pin that showcases your pride in your Shriners heritage. The Shriners Legacy pin will become available in two phases.



## Membership starts here.

### Phase 1 – New Members

Shriners International will provide new members of the fraternity with complimentary Legacy Program pins if they meet the following criteria:

- The member must have joined after October 17, 2011.
- He must also be a part of a Shriners legacy, meaning that one or more of his relatives (either living or deceased) is/was a Shriner.

New members will also need to fill out a Legacy Program application at [www.shrinersvillage.com](http://www.shrinersvillage.com). Upon review and acceptance of the application he will receive a complimentary pin for himself, and a pin for up to two additional Shriners Legacy family members who have signed his petition.

### Phase 2 – Existing Legacies

Beginning January 1, 2012 the Legacy Program Pin will become available to current Shriners who are part of a legacy for a \$5 contribution†. While all Shriner family members may purchase a pin, each member must fill out a separate application at [www.shrinersvillage.com](http://www.shrinersvillage.com). The application for current members will be available online January 1, 2012.

**Shriners International appreciates your role in building and continuing its legacy. For more information about the Shriners Legacy Program please visit [www.shrinersvillage.com](http://www.shrinersvillage.com)**

\*If your family member is a deceased Shriner you will still be eligible to be part of the program.

†Contributions are for the benefit of membership development of Shriners International and are not tax deductible.

## Free Will and Accord

By Jeremy Borie

There has been a problem of declining membership in historically significant social organizations since the 1960's. Historical churches and fraternal organizations have been the two primary victims of this and the trend does not seem to be reversing. I do not see this as a problem where Freemasonry is concerned. Each generation views its own problems with a special kind of narcissism and tries to solve them accordingly. One of the traps that we as twenty first century Freemasons can fall in to is the rejection of the historic practice of not recruiting, whether it be under the guise of targeted public relations or going as far as actually recruiting.

Eventually, there will be a cyclical rejection of the neo-pagan modernity and men will search out the traditional organizations that have help build the America that we live in today. The rejection of the triteness of modern re-incarnations passing for religion and the over connectedness that our electronic society has created will push those who seek more value through knowledge and true fraternity to our lodges.

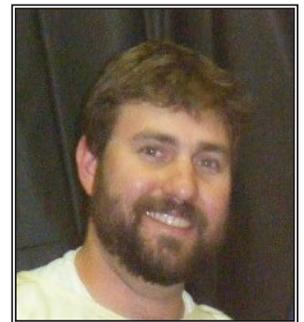
Each time a candidate comes to the door of the preparation room we are assured that act is 'of his own free will and accord', asked by the Senior Deacon and each of the three officers of the lodge. The marshal's interrogation prior to a candidate being prepared to receive the first degree is probably the most important in confirming undue influence. Prior to agreeing to conform to Freemasonry's customs a man must first declare that he is submitting himself solely out of his own desire and that he is doing it because of his positive view of the fraternity. The use of friendship and business relations as leverage over a potential candidate to get him to petition is liable to cause him to falsely swear, and create a situation where the fraternity and that man are both unjustly benefited.

As lodges and a fraternity our outward projection should not be to impress upon the community the vastness of our knowledge or that our essential goodness is greater and enviable to theirs, but simply seek to shine the light

of knowledge and to maintain a beacon of good within the community. Purposefully or knowingly recruiting through our good deeds should be viewed harshly within our lodges and the fraternity as a whole. Instead we should seek to promote the values we dearly hold to our neighbors, maintaining our obligation to society along the way, regardless of potential membership or other sought after merit.

Freemasonry is not for everyone, but the worthy who seek us out will become our representatives and our future. Whatever our numbers, it is the good and the knowledge that we possess that is our greatest strength. Freemasons must differentiate themselves from the profane and require all men who petition to seek out the craft for our historic and current values and deeds. These men will come to us seeking out the knowledge that we hold so dearly, those eternal truths that we are so eager to share to the worthy through our degrees. Through these men the craft will safely pass through the future generations, they being as smart, dynamic and as committed as our great brethren that brought Freemasonry to us.

*Brother Borie is the current Junior Warden of Wayfarers Lodge #50*



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# Arizona Masonic Foundation for Children

The Arizona Masonic Foundation for Children thanks the following current 2012 donors for helping move us closer to our training budget for this year. We have golf tournaments, a car show and a night of entertainment working for the future. Has your lodge appointed a representative to the foundation yet?



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**Brethren,** we are very pleased to announce the receipt of just over \$13,000 from the License Plate Program. This represents the purchase and renewal of about 450 purchases and renewals and just over 1/3 of our investment. Only 450, just think of the possibilities if a thousand or two thousand plates were sold. The possibilities are enormous!

## HAVE YOU purchased your Masonic License plate yet?



Not only is it a great way to show your pride in our great fraternity, \$17.00 from every new purchase and from each renewal goes into the coffers of our Masonic 501(c)3 charities

Order yours today through your local Motor Vehicle location or on line at [ServiceArizona.com](http://ServiceArizona.com)

## A Masonic Quiz: Answers to Last Month's Quiz

*What is the symbolism of the three (3) knocks at the Door?*

The answer is taken from Matthew 7:7 "Ask, and it shall be given you; Seek and ye shall find; Knock, and it shall be opened unto you" : (part of the sermon on the mount)

# Masonic Family Charity

## H.I.K.E Presentation Goes to Scottsdale DeMolay

By Alan Dye

Braden G. from Scottsdale DeMolay is shown receiving a check for the purchase of Hearing Aids from representatives of Arizona Job's Daughters. This award was made possible after Scottsdale Chapter Dad, Ken Neusch, inquired about the Job's Daughters International charity, HIKE, the Hearing Impaired Kids Endowment Fund. After completing and submitting the required paperwork, Job's Daughters learned in February that the grant had been approved. An official presentation of the check was made at a Reception for the Job's Daughters International Supreme Team held at Scottsdale Lodge on April 4, 2012. The Supreme Guardian, Associate Supreme Guardian, Supreme Bethel Honored Queen, and Miss International Job's Daughters were all present to witness the special presentation. They commented that they had been honored with seeing other HIKE presentations before, but that this was the first they had witnessed where the recipient was a member of the Masonic Fraternity. Congratulations to Braden and congratulations to all the Daughters of the State of Arizona that work to raise money for our international charity, HIKE.

*Brother Alan Dye is currently the Vice Associate Grand Guardian Arizona Job's Daughters*



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## One Clown's Opinion

By Doug Fry

Masonry, through all of its history good and bad reminds me of a tale that I was told by my father many years ago. The story reminds us that in order to receive wisdom you must first give your time so that others can still receive from the same place from whence that knowledge came.

As the story goes;

While walking through the desert and with the Sun beating down, my thirst growing stronger with every step, I came across a water pump. This pump was covered with a small roof to shield it from the glaring hot Sun and the frigid cold of the winter.

**Are you willing to follow the instructions?** There on the pump I found a small sign hanging from the spout.

The sign read; "Please feel free to drink the water from my well. There is enough for all to drink and sustain you while you are here. There are but a few things which you must do in order to receive the cool refreshing water that is at the other end of this pump's handle. You must follow these instructions to the letter or no others will receive the same water that you seek."

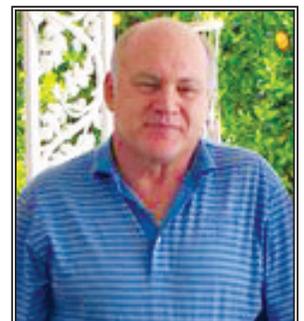
- 1) Remove the loose board from the deck which you stand upon
- 2) Reach down into the cavity below, (please be certain to check for any Rattle Snakes because they too seek the coolness of the water) take out the Mason Jar which is wrapped with a piece of burlap cloth.
- 3) Even though you are thirsty, and the water inside this jar will satisfy your thirst, please do not drink the water. You must first pour the water from the jar down through the pumps housing, this will moisten the leather around the pump plunger making it possible to prime the pump.
- 4) Start pumping the handle and as the water flows out, soak the burlap cloth with the very first water

that comes from the well, (this is very important do in part that the first water that comes out of the pump will be contaminated with rust, dirt, insects and other items that can and will not help you with your thirst, it will however cause eventual and eminent death) after soaking the burlap cloth refill the Mason Jar with the fresh water so the next person in need of water will have the needed water to prime the pump, just as the last individual has done for you. Now wrap the jar with the wet burlap cloth and replace the jar inside the cavity from where you obtained it and put the board back over the gap that it came from.

- 5) Allow your pack mules and horses to drink the water first, they brought you to the well. Fill your canteens and bladders, and now finally drink as much water as you want.
- 6) Before you leave hang the sign back on the pump so the next man who is thirsty knows how to receive the living water that lies at the bottom of this well.

The moral of the story is pretty much self explanatory, before you can drink from the well you must first work. You must make certain that those who got you to this place drink first and the same time you must be willing to ensure that those who follow you will be able to receive the same knowledge that you have received in order to obtain the needed lifesaving water. And finally be sure that all who come this way know that the instructions are on the pump for them to read and follow just as you have done.

Are you willing to follow the instructions?



Brother Doug Fry is currently the Junior Deacon in Paradise Valley Silver Trowel Lodge #29

# On Investigating a Petitioner

By Bill Gesswein

“An odd question was asked of me today,” began the New Brother to the Old Tiler. “Chap who just received his Master Mason degree was assigned to his first committee on a petition. He asked me, ‘What do you try to find out about this fellow?’ Wasn’t that a bird of a question?”

“I should like to hear what sort of animal your reply was,” answered the Old Tiler. “So I ask you the same question. What do you try to find out about a petitioner when you are on his committee?”

“Oh, I take the duty very seriously, I assure you,” answered the New Brother. “I go to see him and find out if he has all his arms and legs; no maimed man is going to get in if I know it! I size him up, and see what sort of a chap he is, and if I think he’s all right I report so. If I have any cause to doubt anything, I talk to his employer.”

“I thought so!” answered the Old Tiler. “You regard him as perfectly innocent until he is proved guilty, and satisfy yourself that he has two legs and arms. If he looks like a good fellow, you tell the lodge he is one, and I dare say if he has a dirty face and frayed pair of trousers you say he isn’t ready to be a Master Mason!”

“Well, what’s the matter with that? Isn’t that what we are supposed to do?”

“Only partly,” answered the Old Tiler. “Do you know Gus, of this lodge?”

“Everyone knows Gus! Chap who limps!”

“Do you think he is a good Mason?”

“As far as I can see, why?”

“Gus only has one leg, you know. He lost it after he became a Master Mason.”

“Yes, I know. What’s that got to do with it?”

“It seems to indicate that the least important part of your duties is to find out whether a man has the correct number of members! I know it’s law; we do not admit the one-footed or the one-handed. Sometimes I think it is a cruel law. But when the law is stretched to say that a man with a finger or a toe missing, or one eye, or one ear, or a humped back, or a clubfoot, cannot become a Mason, then I think there should be a higher law than this one!

“It seems to me that your method of looking into the merits of an applicant leaves something to be desired. You say, ‘If I think he’s all right.’ You have no business to think he’s all right. You can’t tell him from a criminal by sizing him up. You may be a remarkable judge of appearances, but the lodge doesn’t appoint you on a petitioner’s committee for your ability to ‘size someone up.’ It appoints you to go out and dig.

“You ‘size a man up’ by his appearance and his speech. Many a good Mason has been made out of a man whose clothing was not fashionable and whose speech was rough. It is not the outward appearance which counts; it’s the man under the coat. You can’t discover the man under the coat by looking

at the coat.

“It’s good American doctrine that a man is innocent until he is proved guilty, but that doctrine presupposes that some power has accused the man. The applicant for Masonic degrees is not accused of anything. He is asking a favor. When a man asks a favor he should prove that he is worthy of having it granted. You regard him as unfit for the favor until he is proved fit. You have the same right to regard an applicant as unfit for the degrees of Masonry until he shows you that he is.

“When I investigate a petitioner I see him in his home. If he is married I want to see him with his wife. If he has a child or children, I want to know whether they hang around Daddy’s neck or cower away from him. I once went to see a man and waited for him, talking to his wife and children. They were a gay little pair and she a nice woman. All three looked often out the window, anxiously. After a while Mother saw the man coming. ‘Hush, babies,’ she said, ‘be very quiet now, here comes Daddy.’ They hushed. The man didn’t speak to them when he came in, and just nodded to his wife.

“I didn’t stop there. I gave him every chance. I talked with his employers, and his fellow employees. I discovered an egotist, a self-seeker, a selfish and hard man. I turned him down with joy; he wasn’t of Masonic calibre.

“No man can pass me who cannot explain why he wants to be a Mason. He has to argue that question with me at length. If I find it’s because he thinks it will help him in business or he thinks the lodge will care for him or his if he loses his job, or because he is curious, he doesn’t get in.

“I want to know of a man, does he pay his debts? If he is married, is he insured? If not, why not? If it’s because he can’t afford to be, he can’t afford to be a Mason. I would not willingly allow an uninsured married man to join my lodge, because he has not the conception of the protection of dependent loved ones which marks a man as a man. I won’t let a man pass who isn’t trusted by his fellows. I have reported favorably on men who couldn’t get in a business man’s club or a fashionable church.”

“I better hunt up the brother who asked me what I thought an odd question and give him a better answer!” said the New Brother.

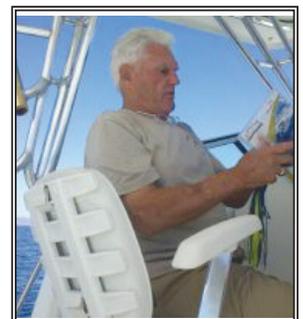
“You just didn’t think!” answered the Old Tiler.

“No, I didn’t. But I’m right pleased with the conversation,” added the New Brother.

“How so?” asked the Old Tiler.

“Because I remember you were on my committee!”

*Worshipful Bill Gesswein is a Past Master of Scottsdale Lodge #43 and originator of the “Sunday Masonic Paper”*



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