



Volume 66 Issue 9

December 2015

## GREETINGS FROM THE EAST

First I would like to congratulate the 2016 officers for their election. And look forward to WM Elect Bob Beffel's installation on December 13<sup>th</sup> 2015 at 3:00pm. I was also at Aztlan #1 election of officers and would like to congratulate WM Elect David Sahada in his election. Also I would like to congratulate WB Russell Sayre on his re-election as master of Camelback Daylight Lodge 75.



We had the two-day event Masonic Boot camp, and it was a tremendous success. The table lodge was fun and there where 71 people from 8 lodges present. The evening was full of good friends and great topics for our speakers. And someone decided to take my gavel since the banner was closely guarded. The next day was at Oriental 20 and our speakers presented topics that I had not thought of. But of course our Sr. Warden was able to present a topic that I found very interesting. And WM George Rusk presented me with my gavel and begged for the thievery to end. I am not sure we can stop the tradition of banner ransoming.

It is with deep sadness that we have lost MWB Sebastian and Brother James McNeil.

I would like to invite all the Brothers and their wives to our Holiday Party on December 17<sup>th</sup> it is Pot Luck so bring something and a gift for the White Elephant.

The lodge will have no meetings on December 24<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>th</sup> due to the holidays.

I would like to thank all the Officers and members of the lodge that supported me during my term as Master. There was allot of business that was completed and there where some topics that had to be tackled even if they where not popular. This time has taught me many things and I have had the opportunity to grow.

Please come and support the 2016 Officers and come to lodge.

**Fraternally,**  
**Merle Anderson**  
**Worshipful Master**



## GREETINGS FROM THE WEST

December has come and with it, the changing of the guard. All the education seminars, Lodge of Instruction and positions I have held in the Officer Line along with various committees has hopefully prepared me to take the reins as the Master of the Lodge. I am humbled that you have the faith in me to lead you in the coming year and elected me to this high honor.



It is my intent that Scottsdale Masonic Lodge is a place that delivers on the promise of "providing an environment in which a good man can become a better man".

I will attempt to do this by having a clear Communication plan, Financial plan, Education plan, Outreach plan, Travel plan and Awards/Recognition plan which will be presented at the action planning meeting on Thursday December 10<sup>th</sup>, in the dining room.

As one of the 1<sup>st</sup> Outreach programs, we will be participating in the Angel Giving Tree this year. The program is organized by the Salvation Army and was the 1<sup>st</sup> of its kind to let you know the name of the child you are buying gifts for. This year, they are including sizes for clothes if you choose to go above and beyond purchasing a toy. The kickoff for this program was November 16<sup>th</sup> and we will be taking the gifts to the Salvation Army on December 18<sup>th</sup>, the day after our holiday party. Please consider picking up a tag to sponsor a boy or girl so they have something to open on Christmas this year.

There will be many opportunities to participate in a wide variety of programs this year. Don't be shy, sign up to attend or even help run these events – participation is how you grow.

In closing, I wanted to thank all the officers and Past Masters who came before me and who guided me in understanding what to do. I pray that I will be able to pass on the light as well as you have.

**Fraternally,**  
**Bob Beffel**  
**Senior Warden**



## From the Junior Stewards Chair

Over the last few weeks, the brothers have come together including the annual BBQ event. It was a wonderful day and we have a great turnout. Brother Jim Callahan worked the grill like he was born with a spatula in his hand Brother Curt Hills made an incredibly early start as co-pilot with Bro. Jim to get the event off to a great start. Brother Jonathan Beffel lead the games brigade and even got some other kids at the park involved. Nice job on spreading the brotherhood. Additionally, the 2015/16 elections were completed and successful. Thank you to Worshipful Elect Bob Beffel, for appointing me to Junior Deacon for 2016. I am proud to represent our lodge in that capacity and look forward to making the brothers proud.

**Bradley Manhoff**  
Junior Steward

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## From Brother Curt Hills

Dear Brother,

It has been a while since we've spoken. I dearly miss your fellowship at Lodge although I do understand your difficulties in visiting as of late. As you probably remember, this is a very busy time of year at the Lodge. We recently had our annual Lodge picnic (a resounding success if I may say so, with many brothers who have not made it to Lodge in some time being in attendance and bringing their families), and will soon be having the Installation of Officers. I so wish you would try to attend as this year we have a line-up of fine men with a passion for Masonry in general and ritual in particular. I think you would be heartily impressed.

Of no small coincidence, it is the subject of ritual that occasioned this letter to you today. You see my Brother, I have been diligently working on the recitation of one of our lectures and I have found myself experiencing once again some of the feelings I remember having seven years ago when I first became a Master Mason, and I can't help but wonder, in light of your absence, if perhaps you have had these same feelings. Allow me to explain.

When I became a member of this Lodge, I was a devoted attendee and an astute observer of every degree. Yet, it seemed that something was missing. Though in awe of our degrees, and proud to have been accepted into the worlds greatest fraternity, I didn't quite feel the transformation that I was hoping for. I so wanted that transformation to make me really feel like a Mason. It was here, I knew it was. I just needed to find it. Being unsure of where to turn, I had the notion that perhaps the answer I sought was in the ritual, and by the ritual I mean the text; the very words that make up the lessons that make up the teachings of Masonry. And so, I began to memorize the ritual. Not all at once of course, but small portions here and there. A charge. A small lecture. One step at a time and before you know it, I was starting to feel like a Mason. It is one thing to sit in Lodge and listen to our moral teachings and think that you know them, and very much another to memorize them, to have them at your side, on the tip of your tongue, ready when needed to offer to a Brother in need in a timely fashion; to console, admonish, or encourage him with the very words of ritual. And Brother, between you and me, more often than not, that Brother in need of my timely advice is me.

As simple as it seems my Brother, I believe that learning just a little ritual will change your Masonic life. It will give you a way to express your beliefs Masonically, and perhaps guide a friend through a difficult moment or time in his life. As an aside, it might even allow you to drop by Lodge some night and surprise us all with a lecture. What a wonderful gift that would be! Of course, that would be of your choosing.

Before I close my Brother, I would like to again mention that feeling I asked you about at the beginning of this letter. That feeling I am experiencing is not of something missing, but of something found once again. It is the feeling of being grounded in the teachings, wisdom, and history of our ancient and honorable fraternity. It is the feeling of experiencing the hope that Masonry holds for all Brothers to become better men, and it gives me hope that if you too are in search of the elusive "something," perhaps you will find it by letting the words of Masonry find you.

**In Brotherly Love,**

**Curt Hills**

**Junior Warden Elect**

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**Masonic Education submitted by Bro. Fred LaBell**

**WHEN WILL RELIGIOUS INTOLERANCE END**

by James Janos

Who is the God of Christianity, Judaism, and Islam? All have roots from the Old Testament and then divide off on different approaches to salvation, communicating, or waiting for a future savior to redeem the lost.

In free masonry who is our God? Our God is the one who created the universe that this earth is part of...a speck of dust when compared to the immensity of the cosmos. As an avid practitioner in amateur astronomy, I have studied every story and text on the creation of the universe and to the latest theories on the end of this magnificent creation of our God.

Who is God? I have tried to understand this for many years, and now at the age of 53 I may finally have a handle on the answer. As a Christian I firmly believe in God as a title for three supernatural beings, being of a spiritual nature, infinite intelligence, and divine control on everything in this universe.

This I believe, because of my finite sources of intellect, my spiritual rearing, and the faith in my belief. My belief came through hearing, hearing by many people of God, and the development of my faith in all of the above. My faith states, I believe in the existence of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. And my faith says that to get to the Father I must believe that Jesus the son died to save me from my sinful nature.

This...all being inspired by God the Holy Spirit. I also believe that the God of the Old Testament refers to Jesus Christ...and not God the Father, as many believe. John 1:1-15 pretty much states this in the divinity of the word, and Jesus Christ being one and the same.

Now I have blown all this away by joining the Brotherhood of Freemasonry.... Or have I? Freemasonry teaches that I should pursue the religion of my choosing and support it...this I do. It teaches that I should seek the light...this I do in my spiritual brotherhood with other Christians and my daily existence with the human race at large.

In the book of James it states that faith without works is dead...and that works without faith is dead. In a church or gathering of people in a religious context, this is the creation and strengthening of their faith. In Freemasonry the fellowship of Freemasons is the development of character to do good works among the populace on this planet.

There is no conflict of Christianity or any other monotheistic belief when people are working as a unit to improve the lives of our fellow men and women. How one believes in their relationship to God is their own personal faith and responsibility. It should not be imposed by force on others, nor should intolerance rule because of different faiths.

As a Christian, I will try to spread the Good News, if I am called on to do it, but I will never force anyone to except it against their will...we are creatures of free choice and free will. The Great Architect of the Universe saw to that. Even if our belief is the only true one...people are free to make choices and as a Christian and as a Freemason...this is what I choose.

Nor will I ever condemn or criticize other people of different Christian beliefs. The old saying of clearing the logs out of your yard, before you clear the sticks from your neighbors yard holds true to religious intolerance. My...how our God must ache in the spirit at the, entire, so-called killing in the name of God. TALK ABOUT TAKING HIS NAME IN VAIN.

In the end, what makes anyone any better than the Taliban or Bin Laden.....Pot...Hitler...Stalin...KKK...Nazi Party...Bigots...Racists... if they practice intolerance.

**From the Secretary's Desk**

My most honorable brothers. I am assuming the position of lodge Secretary knowing that I have a great responsibility to the lodge and most specifically to you as brethren. I will do my best to execute the duties of Secretary and represent the lodge to all I come in contact with throughout the year. I ask for your patience and tolerance during the months to come as I learn the duties and responsibilities. No doubt I will have many challenges and make some mistakes along the way. But I will always do my best to serve at the will and pleasure of our Worshipful Master, promote harmony among all brothers, and address your needs as they arise. I know at times I will be consumed with various duties and may not always have the time to chat as I would like to with you. But with your patience and tolerance, we will work through those times and respect each other for the great Masons and men that we are. Please let me know if I am not meeting or exceeding your needs so I will have the opportunity to do better. May the Great Architect of the Universe bless us all, and all we do, to make Freemasonry and Scottsdale Lodge #43 the greatest lodge in this State.

**Fraternally,  
Stephen Clarke  
Secretary Elect**

**The Senior Deacon**

The word "deacon" is derived from the Greek word *diákonos* (διάκονος) which is a standard [ancient Greek](#) word meaning "servant", "waiting-man", "minister", or "messenger". One commonly held belief to its etymology is that it literally means "through the dust", referring to the dust raised by the busy servant or messenger.

The Bible describes what a deacon should be in Timothy as qualifications for overseers and deacons; Whoever aspires to be an overseer desires a noble task. Now the overseer is to be above reproach, faithful to his wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him, and he must do so in a manner worthy of full respect. (If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church?) He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil. He must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil's trap.

The office of Deacons in Freemasonry appears to have been derived from the usage of the primitive church. In the Greek church, the Deacons were always the doorkeepers, and in the Apostolica Constitutions the Deacon was ordered to stand at the men's door, and the Subdeacon at the women's, to see that none came in or went out during the devotion. In the earliest rituals of the eighteenth century, there is no mention of Deacons, and the duties of those officers were discharged partly by the Junior Warden and partly by the Senior and Junior Entered Apprentices, and they were not generally adopted in England until the Union of 1813.

**Brother Brandon Valentine PM  
Senior Deacon**



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## From the Marshal

Happy Holidays Brethren,

As we quickly approach the holiday season I am reminded how important it is to remain cool, calm and collected as the insanity ensues. When order is present, things seem to flow much smoother. **Good Orderly Direction** is key in the holiday season as well as in our lives. It is no big secret that when one has **Good Orderly Direction** in their life, life gets a little easier.

It's at the pleasure of the WM that the Marshal monitors our Lodge in order to assure **Good Orderly Direction**, we prepare our candidates in **Good Orderly Direction**,

and amongst other things, we guide our brethren in **Good Orderly Direction**. So, what happens when we leave the doors of Temple? Do we apply the same **principle** to our lives outside the doors of Temple as we do inside? If not, why? Good food for thought as we (quickly) approach the holiday season. God knows our patience will be tested; our serenity will be pushed to the limits and our blood pressure will rise. Maybe a little **Good Orderly Direction** will ease the insanity.

Happy Holidays,

**Fraternally,**  
**Brother William F. Wilkins**  
**Marshal**

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## From the Chaplain

Greetings Brethren,

I hope that the summer break has been refreshing for you all. Now that we are coming into the fall months, the summer projects roll to a steady completion, and the Lodge opens once again for the dispatch of business; let us remember that we all serve a purpose.

Perhaps in the Lodge during our meetings that purpose is to help open the Lodge ceremonially or maybe to cast a ballot, or to organize an event. Outside of the Lodge however we also serve a purpose. Maybe that purpose is to be father, husband, etc. Or to serve as an effective member of the community. Maybe your purpose is to help someone buy a home, or to simply help people get to and from work on time.

Whatever the purpose you might serve is, just remember that we all serve one. We were given life for a reason. Keep in your minds that purpose, no matter how big or small, is always important. It is this idea, purpose, that is one of the many equalizers that prove that all men are on the same level.

**Fraternally,**  
**Brother Matthew Hartzell**  
**Chaplain**



## From the Tyler

SKEPTIC SKEPTICISM SKEPTICAL SKEPTIC  
SKEPTICISM SKEPTICAL

Def. Inclined to question or doubt all accepted opinions...

Being a skeptic is easy to define and understand. We think immediately of someone who questions some accepted opinion, but doubts it. He could have formed his opinion of the topic previously, possible a long time ago, accepting his opinion as fact. Now, today's accepted opinion may wave some difference due to moderation of thinking or circumstances. They may accept that which is new, or declare that which was fact is still fact, or some may call it being stubborn. Call it liberal or conservative in thinking, what we consider as simple as a willingness to change one's mind.

Skepticism is all of the above, but embodies a strong tendency to make it a long term habit of doubting all things common to the many. In some ways, this has been good for society. It has made the populace rise to displace tyranny, to reform laws for the common good, and to generally change the status quo to a moving, sometime roiling discourse and outcomes. Our Constitution's ability to be amended with due process is a result of skepticism and doubt. When skeptical of what we doubt, we use it to develop change.

Being skeptical is describing some initial reasoning which may make one unsure an outcome which is thought unwise, ill reasoned, or which probably come to a bad end. Yes, we should listen to the teaching and reasoning of those considered to be knowledgeable of the subject at hand. There is no harm in being a skeptic, embracing skepticism, be skeptical of many things, and be willing and able to think and reason.

**Dave Woodland PM**

**Tyler**

**Brother Tyler's writing his  
first article**





## Scottsdale Lodge #43 Annual Picnic

The Lodge annual picnic took place on November 8th. It was a beautiful Fall day at McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park with clear skies and a mild breeze. The attendees were greeted with friends, fellowship, hamburgers, hot dogs, lemonade, potato chips, games for all and prizes for the kids. It was a truly enjoyable day, perhaps due to the meticulous planning and execution by Brothers Jim Callahan and Curt Hills, or maybe the fun games planned by Brother Jonathan Beffel. More than likely though, it was a combination of the efforts of these Brothers and of the assistance they received from many other Brothers and by the help and attendance of several prospective candidates as well.

**Submitted by: Brother Curt Hills**



*\*More picnic photos on page 6*



## 2015 Scottsdale Lodge Committee Chairmen

Audit	Brandon Valentine PM	480-639-9040	
By-laws / AMC	James Xie PM	917-682-3661	
Bikes for Books	Fred Moore PM	602-840-7222	
Candidate Proficiency	Bob Beffel PM	602-403-6771	
DeMolay	Michelle Gaines	719-229-9226	
Distressed MM	Pillar Officers		
Education	Bob Beffel PM	602-403-6771	
Facilities	Stan Sparrow	602-317-4071	
Friend to Friend	Jess Lee PM, Terry Kelly PM	480-510-7493	
Finance Committee	Russell Sayre WM	480-998-7018	
Fund Raising	Scott Tracy PM	602-697-1132	
Funeral	Fred Moore PM	602-840-7222	
Investigations	Merle Anderson WM	480-235-7653	
Jewelry Case/Library	Nantas Sodano	480-203-4854	
Job's Daughters	Allen Nichols	602-617-4504	
Trestleboard Editor	Fred LaBell	480-717-7716	flabell@cox.net
Webmaster	Chris Johnson	480-251-7128	
Photographer	Chhaya Tan	480-570-1900	

## MEETING PLACE

Scottsdale Masonic Lodge,  
2531 N. Scottsdale Rd., Scottsdale, AZ.

**Stated Meeting:** The first Thursday of each month at  
7:00pm, except July and August.

Dinner at 6:00pm.

For further information call (480) 946-1072  
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## 2015 OFFICERS

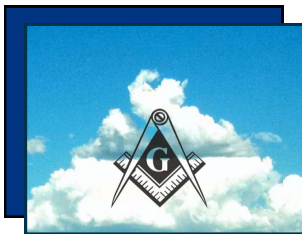
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Junior Warden	James Callahan	602-377-0779
Senior Deacon	Curt Hills	480-620-3732
Junior Deacon	Jonathan Beffel	480-353-1236
Senior Steward	Brandon Valentine PM	480-639-9040
Junior Steward	Bradley Manhoff	602 809-5995
Marshal	Chhaya Tan	480 570-1900
Chaplain	Matthew Hartzell	480 539-0133
Tyler	David Woodland PM	480-772-0640
Organist	Carlos Rausch PM	480-941-2754
Treasurer	Russell Sayre WB	480-998-7018
Secretary	James Xie PM	917-682-3661







# SCOTTSDALE MASONIC LODGE #43

## *December Masonic Anniversaries Celebrating Another Year in the Light*

JUSTIN K. TAYLOR NMD	12/11/2008	JAMES HEBRY SWANN	12/15/2012
MATTHEW JAMES SMITH	12/11/2008	CHARLES D. BUSSKOHL	12/28/1958
BARRY LOUIS COLLINS	12/18/2003	DAVID WATSON	12/8/2011
PATRICK R. KAMINSKY	12/18/2008	JOHN DEAN COVINGTON	12/15/2012
WILHELM HARTMANN	12/19/1991	BRUCE W GENTHNER	12/14/1961
MARK CUNNINGHAM	12/8/2011	BRYAN NICHOLASTHOMAS	12/15/2012
MICHAEL A. FULLER	12/4/2010	MARK A. MARSILLO	12/15/2012
ERIK EASTON	12/13/2007	DAVID ALLEN SMITH	12/5/1987
Jason M. HARRELL	12/10/2009	BRUCE E. FISCHER	12/7/1954
JOHN MICHAEL PIERCE	12/15/2012	SEAN D. WEILAND	12/15/2005
GARY ALLEN NICHOLS	12/9/2010	RONALD W BUKSBAUM	12/28/1992
ROBERT G. STEPP	12/18/2008	SIDNEY L MAGNESS	12/7/1963
PAUL EUGEN SAIN	12/15/2012	BRUCE IRA LaBELL	12/10/2009
ROBBIE LYNN FRANK	12/15/2012	MATHEW JAMES PARSONS	12/15/2012
DOMINIC HENRY GAUDIO	12/15/2012		



## December 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Scottsdale York Rite (6pm-9pm)	2 Trustees Meeting Amaranth 5-10pm	3 <b>Stated Meeting</b> Dinner at 6pm	4	5 Philadelphia Church of God <b>Electric Light Parade</b>
6 F.R.C.C 7-2pm	7  Jobbies	8	9	10 Dinner at 6pm Action Planning Meeting	11	12 Philadelphia Church of God
13 F.R.C.C 7-2pm <b>INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS at 3:00PM</b>	14  Eastern Star	15 Scottsdale York Rite (6pm-9pm)	16	17 Dinner at 6pm Holiday Party	18 Sons of Norway 2pm-5pm	19 Philadelphia Church of God
20 F.R.C.C 7-2pm Rosicrucian's 2-4pm	21  Jobbies	22	23	24 <i>No Lodge</i>	25	26 Philadelphia Church of God
27 F.R.C.C 7-2pm	28  Eastern Star	29	30	31 <i>No Lodge</i>		

All events, and times are subject to change. If you use Email and are not receiving weekly updates from the Secretary, notify him via Email and he will check and make sure you are added to the Email list.



## Angel Giving Tree at Scottsdale #43



### What is this?

It is an outreach program of our Lodge. The Salvation Army has been running the Christmas Angel program for 30 years now. They identify children who most likely would not receive a Christmas present this year if it weren't for the generosity of people like you. They recruit sponsors from around the Phoenix area. Many are individuals at corporations or other organizations like ours.

### How do I participate?

Pick a paper ornament from the tree and take it to the secretary. He will show you a list of the Angels who we are sponsoring this year. Included with the Name and Age of the Angel, are suggestions for toys made by the parents or teachers of the children, but they are only suggestions. If you would like to get a comparable toy, that is fine. In addition to possible toys, they have provided the shirt, pants, coat and shoe sizes in case you want to go above and beyond.

You will take with you the tag for that Angel which contains the same information and return the bottom portion along with the Gift. To make sure none of these Angels are accidentally forgotten, we will record your Name and Phone number in case you need a reminder. You will then be given a real ornament to replace the paper one on the tree.

Please return the unwrapped gifts on or before the Lodge Christmas party on Dec. 17. We will be delivering them to the Salvation Army the next day.