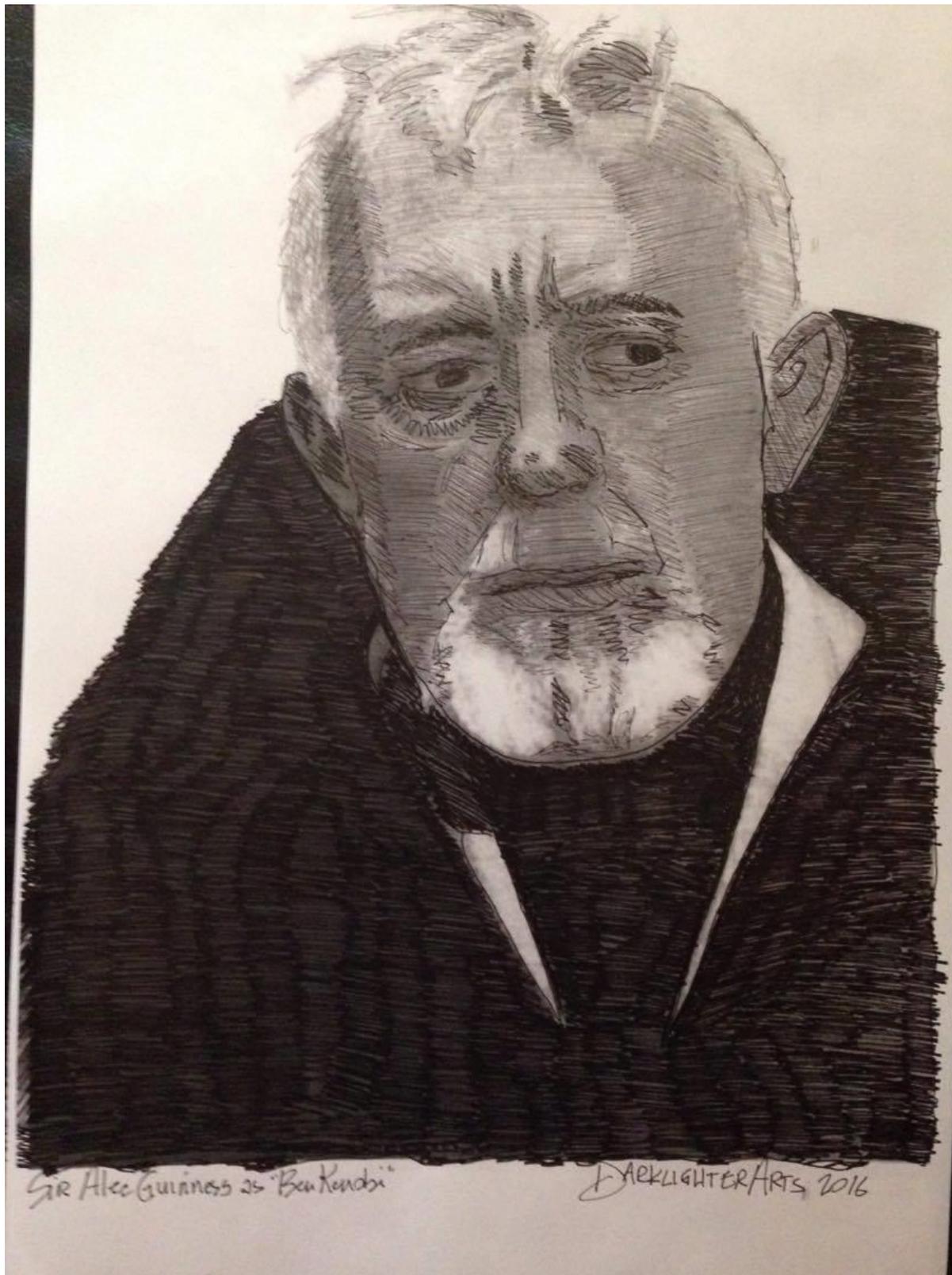




# The Holocron





# The Holocron



Letter from the Editor, Crystal Neumann “Diamond,”  
Editor-in Chief:

*Crystal resides in the Indianapolis area. She is currently a Padawan under Zen Ryo Senchi, and she aspires to become a Master and mentor for others on the Jedi path. Diamond is working on her skills in mediumship, healing, and herbology.*

*Her hobbies include: gardening, dancing, and reading. She is a wife and mother of two beautiful sons. Her eldest son is also currently walking through the Jedi path. She began her path with the Chicago Jedi and is working on building the new chapter in the Indianapolis region.*

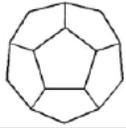
The theme of leadership is an interesting one for this issue, particularly since the leadership has changed for the Holocron (at least as far as the editor goes). This brings me to the importance of managing change as a leader. Life is full of constant changes, and as the saying goes “The only thing that is constant in life is change itself.” Now, as it applies to leadership, it is important to understand the impact of change. We have all experienced change. It is a part of life. People move, they change jobs, taste in music may evolve, and so on.

As far as change within a chapter or group, change also occurs when a new person joins. The change derives simply by virtue of the new person’s presence. The group dynamic is different. However, while this change may represent original or innovative thinking on the new person’s part, for the organization it may simply reflect a different, but no more effective way of accomplishing the same tasks.

So let’s think about all the changes over the past 10, 15, or even 20 years. For me, some of the biggest changes have been with technology and the ability to make it seem like a small world after all. We are able to talk through tiny computers called smartphones, and in say the 1980’s, I do not think any of us could have imagined this. However, change is necessary.

When leading a group going through change, it is important to understand how others cope. Be mindful when helping others get on board. Some may simply get stressed, frustrated or even become resistant to change. This is quite normal as we tend to like structure, habits, and having a rhythm. Also, do not forget to be human and empathize with others to really understand everyone’s fears or loyalties. You have to really be a change-agent.

Look at the learning and thinking processes of others to help connect the new information with the old information. Changes do not happen just out of boredom or just for the sake of it. This is why the communication must occur to better understand the how, what, and why.

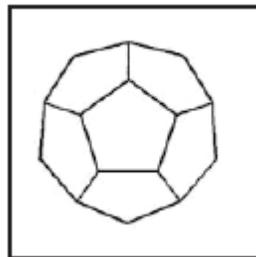


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This is also why it is important to manage and lead change. As a leader, be a role model. Create the vision. Communicate the vision. Empower others to act on the vision. What is my vision?—To unite Jedi through the power of thought and words.





# The Holocron



## A Letter from the Jedi Federation, Angelus Kalen

*The Jedi Federation is the gathering of offline chapters and affiliates to form a stronger organization. Inspired by the fictional Jedi in Star Wars, we choose to practice the Jedi Path as a way of life. We create a sense of community as we share our knowledge and resources with one another.*

As with any community a certain language emerges. What many have observed as a “gathering” is when two or more Jedi come together with the intent of growing and learning about the Jedi Path.

It could be argued that the first gathering began in 2002 when several Jedi came together at Great Falls, Montana. Later the Jedi Gatherings Group led by Moonshadow made it their mission to keep bringing Jedi together on a yearly basis. There have been gatherings in Pennsylvania, Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Texas, Colorado, and others. Many organizations and groups have appeared holding gatherings of their own all over the world. The Jedi Federation, an offshoot of the Jedi Gatherings Group traditionally holds a gathering during the summer in the United States.

So what happens at these gatherings? Jedi, Force Followers, and their friends and family come from all parts of the world to share and exchange knowledge and experience of the Jedi Path (or to just give support). There is a blend of workshops on various topics that build the mind, body, and spirit. One might see discussions on the Code, practice with a lightsaber, or sit in meditation. One may also experience energy work, learn about outdoor survival or ways to improve your leadership and communication skills. In addition to these seminars, there is also time for socializing whether playing games or sharing a meal.

It has also become tradition to have “Knightings” to recognize the hard training that our fellow Jedi have performed. These ceremonies have proven to be inspirational to those on the Jedi Path and fortunate to celebrate in the accomplishments of others.

Due to the number of gatherings, they have needed to be further delineated. Some are described according to the type of gathering; if it’s a camping event or a social get together. Others are named based on the areas/regions they cover, e.g. California Gathering, Great Lakes Regional Gathering. One could even consider the “meetups” put on by local Jedi groups/chapters to be a gathering. Yet, the ones many people look forward to attending are the big national ones hosted by specific organizations, such as the Jedi Federation.

Given this multitude and its continued growth, it will only become easier for people to connect with each other at gatherings. You are encouraged to find the groups that best fit your needs and are relatively close to you. For those willing to travel, the options become greater.



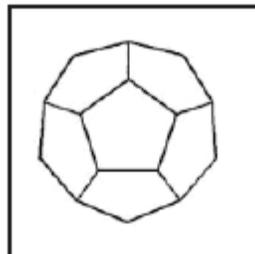


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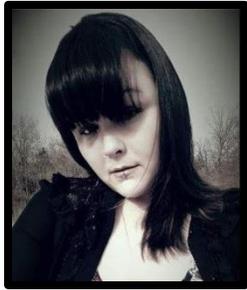
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The 2016 National Jedi Gathering hosted by the Jedi Federation is being held from August 4-7 in Oregon, IL. The Facebook event is <https://www.facebook.com/events/571551452996869/>  
Though all details and registration are found [www.jedifederation.org](http://www.jedifederation.org)





# The Holocron



## Faith & Reverence in Leadership By Samra Caltha

*Samra Caltha is an instructor at Arkinnea Jedi Order. She has been living and learning the Jedi path for over a year and has found it to be the most helpful tool in her life. She enjoys writing, learning, & mysticism. She practices divination and is working daily to be the best possible version of herself. "What lies behind you and what lies before you are tiny matters compared to what lies within you."- R.W. Emerson*

“Faith is the choice of the nobler hypothesis,” states Dean Inge. I liked this quote as I personally believe that so much of a leader is faith based. A leader, in my opinion, first must have faith in something greater than themselves. Next comes a faith in the project in which they will be leading, regardless of what it is. Thirdly they must have faith in themselves that even if they are not successful in their project, it will still make a positive difference. And lastly, the leader must have faith in their followers, servants, volunteers, etc. The idea of servant leaders comes out of this framework of leadership I have laid out. When someone witnesses a good leader leading and they learn from them, most likely they will start to build those qualities within themselves, becoming inspired to be leaders within themselves. Robert K. Greenleaf says, “It is seekers, then, who make prophets,” which in my mind, prophet is referring to leaders. A good leader will never end their quest for seeking truth, knowledge, and keeping an open mind.

From *The Servant as Leader* by Robert K. Greenleaf I found another favorite quote to be, “The danger, is to hear the analyst too much and the artist too little.” While reflecting on this I was mindful of balance, which I personally believe to be extremely important in personality, society and education. It is logical to say that too much analysis and not enough creativeness and artistry can produce a very boring and robotic peoples. Also, if there was on the other hand too much creativity and artistry without enough analysis we would likely begin for forget the facts, realities of life, and float too off course of the human existence. “Not much happens without a dream. And for something to happen, there must be a great dream. Behind every great achievement is a dreamer of great dreams. Much more than a dreamer is required to bring it to reality; but the dream must be there first.” This quote by Greenleaf also supports my idea of a balance of analysts to creativity and artists.

Reverence by Paul Woodruff stuck with me as well. He defines reverence as, “the virtue that keeps leaders from trying to take tight control of other people’s lives. Simply put, reverence is the virtue that keeps human beings from trying to act like gods.” I was actually happily shocked to read this article as it was a great reminder of just how small we as human beings are and that the ability to hold nature, art, a god, etc. in reverence is one of the distinguishing



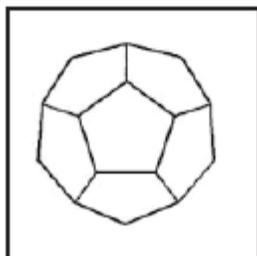
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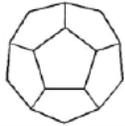


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qualities that separate us from other animals. I personally believe Woodruff's view that reverence doesn't seem to be a common characteristic when one thinks of a leader or even just a person with good character much anymore. He says, "Power without reverence-that is catastrophe for all concerned. Power without reverence is aflame with arrogance, while service without reverence is smoldering toward rebellion. Politics without reverence is bling to the general good and deaf to advice from people who are powerless. And life without reverence? Entirely without reverence? That would be brutish and selfish, and it had best be lived alone."

I can see in today's politics and population that by Woodruff's words, we are on that road to power, politics, and life without reverence. The final statement he makes in the article is one I teach, before having read Woodruff's words, and enjoyed the validation it aroused in reading from someone else's opinion. It states, "Reverence runs across religions and even outside them through the fabric of community, however secular. We may be divided from one another by our beliefs, but never by reverence. If you desire peace in the world, do not pray that everyone share your beliefs: Pray instead that all may be reverent."





# The Holocron



## Leadership is Influence By Angelus Kalen

*Angelus Kalen (Gabriel Calderon) has been involved with the Jedi community for well over a decade. He began with what was then the JEDI Academy, which is now the Institute for Jedi Realist Studies (IJRS). He continues as a senior instructor at the IJRS. Angelus also became involved with the Jedi Resource Center which organized offline Gatherings. At the encouragement of the organizer, he started an offline group in Illinois in 2006 - "Chicago Jedi".*

We may think that only politicians, humanitarians, or gurus can be leaders. However, we often overlook the people around us, including the person staring back at us through a mirror. One doesn't need to be in a high-ranking position, have millions of dollars, or even be incredibly intelligent. To be a leader, one needs to make an impact in the lives of others. Think of the teacher who encourages a student to pursue further education or the coach who pushes an athlete to compete at her best. They both achieve a positive result.

The first step in becoming a leader is acknowledging that one doesn't know everything. The key is learning that leading is about influence. With this realization in mind, one can then continue with the next step - learning. If one has always wanted to be a chef, that person will take culinary classes and practice with various cookbooks. One may already be in a specific occupation but require further education to maintain their grasp of the (often changing) field. Knowledge begins to show as it is continually developed in the third step. Once a leader has reached the last step, improvement becomes second nature.

Aside from education, there are certain traits that a leader must embody. First, one must have a vision. A leader knows where she or he wants to go or achieve. Sometimes all one has to do is look within for answers. Yet, it is helpful to work with other to build one's resources. Now that a leader has direction, one also needs a plan. A second trait that is valuable for leaders is the ability to set priorities. A leader can never do it all or one will ultimately burn out. Instead, a leader will do all that is required to yield the maximum results. A leader must also have discipline. Only through constant practice and commitment can the vision be achieved. If one wanted a beautiful garden, one would be outside every day weeding, watering, and tending to the plants. Lastly, a leader needs to build trust. If one is not able to create a connection with one's community, then the previous traits are of no consequence. In fact, people can be much more forgiving of mistakes when one has cultivated a positive relationship. Leaders always remember for whom they are seeking out their vision.

As one continues with education and improves the necessary traits, one's effectiveness also increases. Initially one may be followed simply because she or he is a position of authority. Think of the unhappy employee doing everything the "the boss" says. Later a leader is followed



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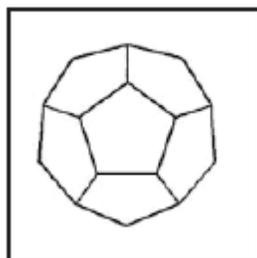


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because people have developed a genuine affinity. People want to see this leader succeed. Through further progression, people follow a leader because she or he produces results. Leaders will often stop at this level and feel a sense of accomplishment. However, when a leader begins focusing on people as well, then one can reproduce other leaders. It is here where people follow because of what a leader can do for them. The final level is hardest to reach; a leader is followed because of who that person is and what she or he represents. Gurus, saints, and historical figures are commonly placed at this level.

A leader may not see the vision come to fruition, either because it is too lofty a goal or one that requires much time. Therefore, a leader will enlist the help of others who share the same vision and build them into leaders themselves. Moreover, it could be argued that the most important thing great leaders do is developing other leaders. People need to carry on the torch. Sometimes sacrifices must happen so that vision is accomplished. It could be extra time and energy that is spent. It could also be swallowing one's pride and work with others who are challenging. In fact, teamwork is a vital component to achieving success. A good leader knows how to leverage the skills of others to make up for where she or he may lack. If one is not familiar with technology nor has the time to learn it, a leader will find someone to handle that work. If one is not great with public speaking, then a leader will find someone to serve as the voice. A leader does not work in isolation.

It is not easy work to be a leader; it's even harder to see oneself as a leader. However through perseverance, growing one's skills and building positive relationships, it can be a little more manageable. It may be helpful to see where others have helped you. Ultimately, you must decide where you want to use your influence.





# The Holocron



## From the Youngling's Corner: Who Wants to be a Leader? By Eli "Gold" Neumann

*Eli is a 13-year old teen who lives in the Indianapolis area. He was first published at the age of 9, and intends on writing creatively and expressing his thoughts. He aspires to be a video game designer, violinist, and comedian. Gold is currently working on his mediumship and astral projection. He enjoys good food, hearty belly laughs, and loyal friendships.*

Why would anyone want to be a leader? Being a leader is tough work. You sometimes have to deal with difficult people. Not everyone is motivated in the same way. And you hardly ever get a thank you. What's the fun in all that? Could this be why there is usually only one leader in a group? It would seem that not many people step up to this kind of challenge.

I just graduated eighth grade. While my mind should not be on school during the summer, it still is as I think about the next step of high school. When I think of a leader, I think of teachers. Teachers are leaders. They do lead a class and are there to help you get from one milestone to the next. This is much like the Padawan to a Master in the Jedi world.

However, I started to think about the teachers I had. I thought about the good teachers. These were people I respected and enjoyed listening to. I also felt they made me want to become a better person and were there for me. Then, I thought about the bad teachers. The bad teachers were always people I could not wait until the class bell rang. I never felt good about being in their class. I did not feel motivated to give *them* my best, but I gave my best for other reasons. I think we all can think of an example of a good and bad teacher we have encountered.

After thinking about these bad teachers, I thought about how if I ever were a teacher, I'd want to be one of the good ones. Before school ended for the summer, I had an orchestra concert. At the end, a few classmates cried and gave a little speech to one of the teachers, gave her flowers, and made the teacher (and some of the audience) cry. I know one of the girls who gave the speech really did change and get better from the beginning of the year. Basically, the orchestra teacher really made a huge impact on them.

I think this is why people become leaders. They want to make a change in the world or at least make a difference. They can support and coach others and have an influence on something important to them. I guess the reward is in the job itself. While my orchestra teacher did get a thank you, it was not until all the way at the end of the school year. I don't know how many thank you's or flowers she gets. I do not think it's many. I just know that I am inspired by a leader's hard work. I am inspired by good teachers or leaders.