



# The Holocron





# The Holocron



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Special thanks to Boom Darklighter for cover artwork this issue, and all issues before.



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

*Crystal resides in the Indianapolis area. She is currently a Knight with the Jedi Federation. 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 growing the newest chapter in the Indianapolis region.*

### **Role Model Amongst the Chicago Jedi**

Role modeling has a powerful impact on others. This sets the tone on which behaviors are acceptable. An example of a role model would be one of the Jedi Knights, Angelus Kalen. He is quite the humble person and doesn't toot his own horn. The definition of his actions and behaviors are comparable to the Level Three Leadership Model as he holds a set of values, assumptions, beliefs, and expectations, or also known as VABEs, about the way the world is or should be. Angelus is determined to understand the values of his group with the Chicago Jedi Chapter because he recognizes that their behavior is closely intertwined with their thoughts and feelings. He spends a great deal listening to his group, as he really wants to understand how they feel and determine how to help them become real life Jedi, or at the very least, become better versions of themselves.

To influence and increase the levels of their performance, he increases his expectations of them. Thus, their end performance mirrors his expectations, as their results are shaped by motivation and esteem. He always commends their work and makes them believe that they keep getting better and better as a Chapter. Angelus believes in them, which in return, causes them to believe in themselves, not settling for anything less. Transformational leaders, such as Angelus, also raise other's consciousness by appealing to higher ideals and values such as liberty, justice, peace, and equality.

Beyond the way he models his leadership for the Chicago Jedi Chapter, whether he realizes this or not, he also models the way for the Jedi Federation. The vision is to bring Jedi together on a global scale one day at a time.



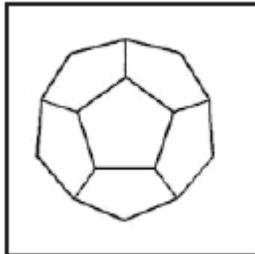
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Role modeling obtains a powerful relationship with leadership. Yet, a challenge for leadership is to act in accordance with stated values. It is important to walk the walk, in addition to talking the talk. Like any other human or Jedi in films or books, Angelus has some flaws. However, what is noble to me is that he constantly works toward fulfilling his vision while building others up in the process. To be a good role model, one must reflect on, identify, and declare their own values and share them. I look toward this role model to help grow and build the Indy Jedi Chapter.

Interested in writing for *The Holocron*? Feel free to submit a poem or article to [jediholocron1@gmail.com](mailto:jediholocron1@gmail.com) for consideration.





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## Jedi and Role Models 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".*

One may think of presidents, authors, celebrities, athletes, and other historical figures as the only source of role models. However, one doesn't need a fancy title, fame, or money. One can look to people in the same city or even in the same house.

A role model is someone who is an example of values, attitudes, and behaviors associated with a role or position – such as a parent or a supervisor. Role models can also be someone who distinguishes oneself in a way that others admire and want to emulate. A role model can be someone you know and have regular contact or it can be someone you have never met.

There are 5 essential qualities of a role model.

Firstly, a role model needs to have passion. This person is able to find the joy in what she or he does. One may have even remarked that the work could be done for free (and maybe it is in the case of volunteers). That love of the work is so great that it can infect others. For example, one may find history to be a dull subject. Yet, a teacher who is passionate about it can bring history to life through storytelling. The students themselves then find it to be fascinating.

While a line in the Jedi Code states that "There is no passion," many in the Jedi community have come to understand it to mean that there is no "obsession." Passion itself can be very empowering. When we encounter the diminutive Yoda on Dagobah, he trains Luke even after it was said that Luke was "too old." Perhaps, Yoda himself was also too old to train new Jedi. However, he continued because he found it to be rewarding work. His love of the Jedi and not wanting them to perish encouraged him to continue.

Secondly, a clear set of values is also needed for a role model. People want to know that what they think has merit. They are affirmed when they see another embody those same beliefs. One may think recycling to be an important behavior. A role model would not only practice that same behavior, but also, show how it makes a person part of who they are. Moreover, the role model can show how those values impact the world. The role model may even offer other means of saving the earth from participating in Earth hour to running for office to change policy.



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As Obi-Wan Kenobi explained to Luke Skywalker what the Jedi were like before the “Dark Times”, before the Empire, he revealed his values. Jedi were to be the guardians of peace and justice. He believed lightsabers were “elegant” and Jedi as their wielders were “civilized.” Luke shared Kenobi’s hatred of the Empire. Yet fear kept him from immediately pursuing the same goals.

A third quality of a role model is constantly thinking of others. A role model sees service as a necessary part of existence. One may be active in the community or helping others. One may also give time and energy to support a cause. We may think of the community organizer or the parishioner who is always assisting with a food pantry.

There is no better example of service than Leia Organa. She played many roles from princess of Alderaan, a senator, a leader in the Rebel Alliance, and a general in the Resistance. Her belief in something better drove her in the fight against the Empire. Even as the Rebel base on Hoth was being overrun, Leia continued to oversee the evacuation, signaling pilots to leave the planet.

A natural extension of that service quality is that a role model must also display selflessness. A role model sees the bigger picture and understands that she or he is but one piece in a puzzle. As a result, a role model can see beyond “perceived” boundaries and are more accepting of people who are “different”. Jane Addams was born to a wealthy and politically prominent family. She would eventually build Hull House. It would be a place where worlds collide and boundaries are crossed. It would provide social and educational opportunities for working-class people, many of whom were immigrants.

Mon Mothma saw beyond and was very accepting of others. As the leader of the Alliance, she worked with all species who dared to fight the Empire. Where others would see a criminal in Jyn Erso, Mon Mothma saw a valuable asset, someone who could steal the plans of the Death Star. It would ultimately prove costly yet necessary and fruitful.

Lastly, a role model has shown the ability to overcome obstacles. Many often think there is a smooth, linear trajectory to success. However, that journey will be riddled with hardships and even failures. Those who succeed do so because of their persistence and innovation. People want to know that success is possible.

With all that Luke Skywalker experienced, he has come to understand that roadblocks only deter for a moment. It would seem practically impossible to free Han Solo from the clutches of Jabba the Hutt. Yet, he devised a few plans for escape with the assistance from his allies. Even as he was taken “prisoner,” Luke still found a way to defeat the rancor and escape with his friends.

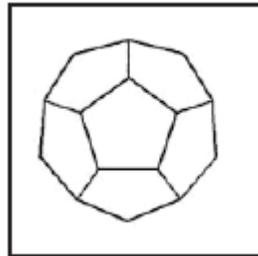


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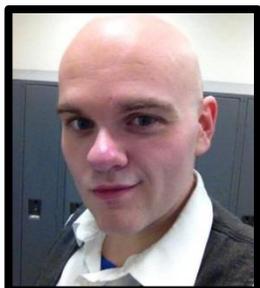
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It would seem that role models abound in the Jedi universe. They exist in our world as well. Whether a family member, clergy, coach, teacher, etc., if you have these qualities, you have the makings of a great mentor.





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## The Roles We Play By Brandon Douglas

*Brandon Douglas resides in the Indianapolis area. He is currently the Head instructor at KTA Southeast and is one of the Indy Jedi Founding members.*

What do you think of when I ask you who your favorite role model is? Do you imagine a celebrity who has worked long and hard to become famous and living a life of luxury? Do you conjure quotes from great thinkers and philosophers of the past? Do you think of the mental giants that invent ways of changing the entire world with the very concepts that they can generate in their imagination? How about an author or screen writer that wrote a particularly poignant piece that seemed to resonate with your very soul? All of these are great examples of what a role model can be, and also blind us to the role models that actually exist around us and hopefully within ourselves.

When I saw the topic for this particular *Holocron*, I wanted to approach this article as more of a sociology project. I wanted to see what people around me considered a good or bad role model and how they feel they have been influenced by them for good or ill. The first question I asked was simply, “Who do you consider a good role model?” The answers that flooded in ranged from Socrates to Snookie. People by and large answered this question with a person of fame or infamy throughout history. They pointed to the apex of human achievement that these people were able to attain as the guidepost for what made a good role model. The follow up question I posed was “Who do you consider a bad role model?” Again I was deluged with celebrities and infamous personalities from history. From Pol Pot to Snookie again. People that committed atrocities on a massive scale or became famous for lewd or disreputable acts that people were afraid of others being influenced by. These were people that if their messages of intolerance, hate, selfishness, and greed were to become the norm, people feared that the decline of all modern civilization would crumble. Both of these responses for good and bad role models far and away were littered with names from history books and magazines. While the ideals behind all of the choices were quite justifiable, there was a certain level of dispassion and detachment to the responses.

I then changed the wording of the first question to “Who in your life has made the biggest positive impact on your life?” The responses flooded in with personal accounts of amazing parents, teachers, friends, police and firemen stories, and a number of other extremely personal connections. Stories about overcoming hardships with a smile on their face while barely holding on to the reins and daring feats of personal sacrifice and jeopardy to help those around them while never asking for a thing in return. People who opened their homes, lives, and arms for any that were in need. Tear-filled memories and wistful smiles lit the faces of many of the responders, showing such a deep connection to happy memories that I was completely consumed



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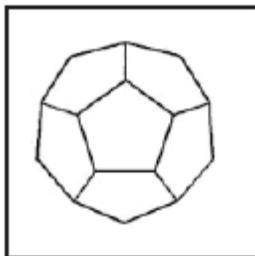


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by wanting to hear more. The responses were so much more personal and heartfelt than when I asked about “Role Models” that I was actually stunned.

I ended the interviews with a simple follow up question. “What is the difference between the person you mentioned in the last question, and a role model?” Strangely enough, this simple question stumped almost every interviewee. There were sounds of confusion and sputtering. One person managed to say that they thought a role model had to be someone famous enough that more than one person was influenced by them. When I asked how many would qualify someone to be a role model to them, they struggled to come up with an answer.

The qualities we find so admirable in those that touch our lives on such a personal level are the same we see in those of repute. Too often we are wrapped up in wanting to connect with others around us that we stick our labels of Role Models on those that other people will know as well. However, I feel that having role models that nobody else knows is a great way to share the stories that make that person so meaningful to you, that you can share the joy and positive message to someone brand new each time you tell your stories. Alternatively, think about those around you and ask yourself if you act in a way that would make your role models proud? We are all role models for those around us all the time. What kind of a role model are you, and what kind of a role model would you most like to be? The final question I want to post to you is this: “What lesson or quality has a role model, or someone that touched your life so personally, would you most like to pass along?”





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## **Educated Choice By Kai Holeman**

*Kai resides in the Indianapolis area and is a co-chair to the IndyJedi Chapter. Kai is a mineral and rock lover – a real geology enthusiast.*

When I was in high school, there was a drama teacher from whom everyone fought to get recognition. He was considered *the* epitome of what you wanted to be in speech and theater. At the end of every year, students would come to him and beg for recommendations to the colleges of their choice. He denied my request, and I was heartbroken. This man who was the bar for what you were supposed to be on stage and backstage thought I wasn't worth his time. I was devastated, until I was in my late twenties and this same man was arrested for solicitation. It turned out that he had a habit of paying for companions and cheating on his wife. There is a valuable lesson in this experience, one I want to pass to you.

“There is no ignorance, there is Knowledge.” It is a line in the Jedi Code that we often quote when referencing our education, but allow me to go one step further and apply this to choosing role models.

Frequently, we latch on to the presentation of a person. We accept what we see as the whole package and rush headlong into a pattern of working to be like that person or, even worse, believing their opinions must be the correct ones because they are the experts. The problem here, my friend, is we too often do this blindly. We take in the façade and do not look deeper, do not educate ourselves on what may lie hidden in the closet. We are ignorant to everything but an ideal.

If we are to be better to ourselves and truer to our code, we must take extra steps. Just as we are taught to be cautious of our surroundings, we must be equally cautious of our influences. If you find a person you feel is a role model to you (or even a potential Master), exercise due diligence and educate yourself more deeply. Ask around about the qualities of this person. Are they known to practice what they preach? Do you hear anything questionable? If so, chase down the truth. Research the actions of this person as if you are interviewing them for a job. After all, had I spent just a little time asking around about how my teacher treated people around him, I may have found out sooner that he was a megalomaniac who loved the power he had over the students. That was not someone I needed as a role model.

Lastly, remember that we are all humans. There is no ideal example of what we want to be. A person may look like they've attained what you would aspire to be, but it is a guarantee there are flaws you aren't seeing. You will find imperfection in every potential role model you see. Set your bar with wise forgiveness. Every sage will lose their temper occasionally. Every



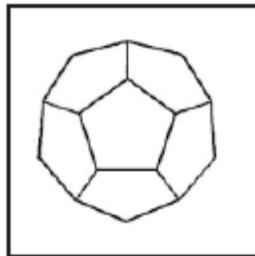
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guardian has a cheat day. It is up to you to practice educated judgment when deciding if this is truly someone to whom you want to give personal importance.

It is my hope that, in this process of research and decision, you learn not only how to choose a role model but also how to be the very best role model your own flawed humanity will allow.





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## From the Youngling's Corner: Characteristics of a Role Model By Eli Neumann

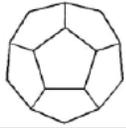
*Eli is a 14-year old teen who lives in the Indianapolis area. He was first published at the age of 9, and intends on writing creatively and expressing his thoughts. He aspires to be a video game designer, violinist, and comedian. Eli is currently working on his mediumship and astral projection. He enjoys good food, hearty belly laughs, and loyal friendships.*

To me, the simplest definition of a role model is someone who it looked up to by *someone else*, in which the *someone else* would want to imitate the role model. There are good role models, and there are not-so-good role models. Each will have their own set of characteristics. I would like to see my own role model as a person who I can rely on for guidance. Anyone has the potential to be a role model. For example, they do not necessarily have to be a “hero.” They can be everyday people who simply choose to do the right thing. Everyone has potential.

Now, some good traits to be a good role model would include patience, integrity, kindness, and determination. They need to act properly and be aware of their surroundings and the people around them. To be a role model requires great responsibility because the person needs to realize that their actions set the example. There is no single, one way or perfect way to be a role model, but one will need the motivation to inspire others.

Role models can have big parts in a person's life. Not everything has to be completely serious though, in that they have to always be strict. Fun, laughter, jokes, and good times should also be allowed in the examples set. However, guidelines are not a bad idea. A good role model can have the balance of being lenient and strict from time to time. It always can differ at any moment.

There are many characteristics a role model can have. While everyone might list different attributes of what a role model must have, I believe all the characteristics would align to the same core values. One person might mention courage, another person might mention wisdom. A good role model will essentially be committed to performing ethical acts and making good choices on a daily basis.



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