

# J. F. Swartsel lodge No. 251 F. & A.M. Trestleboard



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Stated Communications: 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday - - Supper 6:30 – Meeting 7:30

**The third Friday of EACH month is reserved for a public Fish Fry at the lodge**

**The 5<sup>th</sup> Thursday night of the month is reserved for Family night at the lodge**

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## IN THIS ISSUE YOU WILL FIND....

**Masonic Education, Chair Chatter, Lodge News & Events, Calendar of Important Events, Lodge Officers, Sponsors and Website Information**

### **Masonic Education Submitted by W.: Stuart Graff**



## Deuteronomy

This is the fifth and final book of the Books of Moses

From The Books of The Book by Clarence H. Cohen, P. G. M.

Deuteronomy signifies the “Second Law” or the “Law Repeated”; and is so called because it contains a repetition of the law of God given by Moses to the Israelites. It appears that Moses wrote this book in the plains of Moab, a short time before his death. Knowing that the end was approaching, he having reached the age of one hundred and twenty years, he deemed it necessary to repeat and re-emphasize the ruling ideas and principles of the law, and to indicate that their observance by the Hebrews was an absolute necessity if they were to be adequately prepared to enter the Land of Promise.

This book consists of thirty four chapters. The words of Moses appear to conclude with the thirty-third chapter, the thirty-fourth was added to complete the story, and this last chapter may have been written by Joshua. Some writers think it is possible that the last four chapters may have been written by Samuel or Ezra.

Some writers divide this book into three main parts, some four. In the first, chapters 1 to 4, the goodness of God to the people of Israel and the whole-hearted loyalty of Israel to God is eloquently set forth. Obedience is the requirement needed to secure God’s continued favor. Chapters 5 to 26 present a detailed review of the law with special attention given to the importance of the Ten Commandments. The emphasis is on justice and righteousness as it applies to both the private and collective life of the people of Israel. Chapters 29 to 30

stress the importance of the Covenant and the readiness of God to bless or curse those who obey or disobey his laws. Choice is a perilous gift. It is this choice that lifts man above the animal world. Chapters 31 to 34 contain the personal history of Moses until his death.

Deuteronomy is marked with majestic language and lofty spiritual quality which comes from an exalted concept of God. The demand is to love God “with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might.” This is the “SHEMA” the great watchword of Israel. This great watchword is given in chapter six. It would do everyone good to read this chapter again.

The primary teaching of Deuteronomy is that of absolute loyalty to God. “There is no other besides Him” (4:35). This book stresses the concern of God for his people and the need for their response to Him in obedience and love. This idea is more lofty than that stated in any of the preceding books.

The book of Deuteronomy with its preceding four books make up the “Torah” or written law. It is hand printed on a scroll and is completely read in its entirety within a space of one year.

The founder of Christianity when asked what to him was the most important commandment replied: “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord; and ye shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might” (Mark 12:29 – 30).

Moses life is a good definition of initiation. He saw the Promised Land. We do not know if he ever became a “Master Mason”. He searched diligently for that which was lost. If he found it, that was his secret. He made his journey unaided, alone, and God took him.

Hiram Abif was the architect of a Material Temple that has long crumbled into the dust. Moses was the Architect of a spiritual temple that builded to one God and has endured.

The book of the law, long lost, now found Holiness unto the Lord.

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Fellowcraft Degree at J. F. Swartsel Lodge on Thursday September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2016

W.: Stuart Graff (Worshipful Master), Brothers Angel Luis Acosta and Ryan Michael Dance (Passed)

and R.: W.: Jerry Murray (Lecturer) – along with family member Madden

This degree was a complete success. Not only did we pass these two brothers to the degree of Fellowcraft, but we had the pleasure of R.: W.: Murray sitting in as Senior Deacon as well as giving the lecture during the second section.



Along with this we had notable visitors: M.: W.: Joe Fowler, W.: Steve Bell (from Saskatoon, Canada, W.: Don Bell giving the charge, R.: W.: Sam Pesola conducting the second brother, and Brother John Nagy as the musician. What a wonderful evening we had.



### Comments from the Craft



Thank you to all the brothers that participate in the degree teams. Without you, we would just be another lodge.

Thanks for the reminder about the election next month, I am anxious to see who will be running for what.

Your Catechism Instructors for the three symbolic degrees in freemasonry are:  
W.: Jerry Snell, W.: Jeff Sklet, W.: Stuart Graff, Brother Sam McPherson



## What is Freemasonry



Freemasonry is a voluntary association of men. Freemasonry is a system of moral conduct. Freemasonry is a way of life. Freemasonry is a fraternal society. Freemasonry teaches monotheism. Freemasonry is religious in its character. Freemasonry teaches the Golden Rule. Freemasonry seeks to make good men better. Freemasonry teaches morality through symbolism. Freemasonry uses ritual and ceremonies to teach its members. Freemasonry is based on a firm belief in the fatherhood of God, the brotherhood of man and the immortality of the soul. The tenets of Freemasonry are ethical principles such as are acceptable to all good men. Freemasonry teaches tolerance towards the belief of others and charity toward all mankind. Freemasonry proudly proclaims that it consists of men bound together by Brotherly Love and Affection. Freemasonry is universally applicable throughout the world. Freemasonry is not an insurance or beneficial-type society. Freemasonry is neither a religion nor a creed. Freemasonry is not organized for profit. Freemasonry dictates to no man as to his beliefs, either religious or secular. Freemasonry seeks no advantage to its members through business or politics. Freemasonry is not a forum for discussion on partisan affairs. Freemasonry does not conceal its existence - it is not a secret society. Freemasonry teaches Love and kindness in the home, Honesty and fairness in business or occupation, Courtesy in social contacts, Help for the weak and unfortunate, Resistance to wickedness, Trust and confidence in good men, Forgiveness toward the penitent, Love toward one another, and, above all, **Reverence for the Supreme Being.**

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## Chair Chatter

### **From the Worshipful Master's station: W.:M.:Danny Valdez**

My Brothers, I need to know why we keep having poorly attended practices and degrees as well as poorly attended functions. If we are doing something wrong please advise us as to what it is so we can fix whatever it is. I do appreciate you very much when you show up. I also need to know how we can improve our miscommunications. I plan to start a regular practice day once a week on Tuesday to practice all the Degrees. This will begin on Tuesday October 25th, 2016. Please show your support in attendance as well as by bringing and helping the newer Master Masons in our Lodge. "Together we stand, Divided we fall".

We have a fantastic Lodge with a lot of bright and educated Masons but we need to guide that effort more to show that we are "The Best". These regularly scheduled Tuesday practices will give us all the opportunity to put our best efforts forward.

### **From the Senior Warden's station: R.:W.: Charles "Sam" Pesola**

Nothing from the West

### **From the Junior Warden's station: Brother Marty Grief**

My Brothers, in October, during our stated communications we presented Masonic Education on Masonic Etiquette which was well received. As we continue to provide Masonic Education in the lodge the question arises, what do you think would be beneficial to yourself and your Brothers? While the Committee on Education can and will continue to provide ongoing education, your opinion is most welcome. If you have requests, please let me know.

Further, if you have a topic that you would like to present as part of our Masonic Education, we would welcome your participation. This is your lodge and your active participation is encouraged. If you are unable to come to lodge, but would like to share a topic, I would be honored to visit with you so that you can share your topic with me. In turn I will share the topic with the Craft at one of our meetings.

In addition to education during lodge meetings, the officers of Swartsel are considering the creation of a Degree Team. The purpose of the team is twofold: first, it provides our Brothers with the opportunity to become more involved with the lodge and second, it ensures that our Degree work will be the best it can be.

Each member of the Degree Team will learn and become proficient in multiple chairs. The more knowledgeable and proficient our Brothers are, the higher the quality of our Degrees and the more fun we can have. If you would like to participate in the Degree Team, please let me know. It's open to all Masons in our lodge.

**From the Secretary's station: W.: David B. Lambert, Sr.**

Brethren it's that time again for the Election of Officers, I have included the procedures from the Masonic Digest for your review.

**ELECTION AND APPOINTMENT Constitutional Provisions,** The election and appointment of the Officers of Lodges shall take place at the first Stated Communication in December of each year and such Officers shall be installed on the anniversary of Saint John the Evangelist, or as soon thereafter as practical, and the Officers so elected and installed shall continue in office for one year and until their successors are duly elected and installed unless for good and sufficient reasons the Most Worshipful Grand Master has granted permission for the resignation and authorized an election to fill the vacancy and such other vacancies created by the election; provided, that if, from any cause, there should be no election at the time appointed for the annual election, it shall be the duty of the Worshipful Master to order an election at any time before or on the anniversary of Saint John the Evangelist. (Art. X, Sec. 4)

#### **Acclamation Procedure**

All nomination forms must be properly completed, including the statement confirming that the Nominee has agreed to accept the position for which nominated, if elected, Brother Secretary will move that all Officers be elected by acclamation.

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#### **Important Dates for November, 2017.**

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|------------------|--------------|--|
| 2nd              | 7:00 PM      | District School of Instruction @ John Darling 154.                                       |
| 3rd              |              | Stated Communication of Swartsel Lodge Dinner @ 6:30 PM, Lodge Opens at 7:30 PM.         |
| 4 <sup>th</sup>  |              | Election equipment delivered to Lodge.   |
| 6 <sup>th</sup>  |              | Friendship using Dining Room 6 – 9: PM.  |
| 7 <sup>th</sup>  | 7:30 PM      | Friendship Chapter 209 OES, Stated Meeting.  |
| 8 <sup>th</sup>  |              | Election Day (Lodge being used).   |
| 9 <sup>th</sup>  |              | Election equipment picked up.  |
| 11 <sup>th</sup> |              | Masonic Park Board Meeting @ Tampa 240 (7 – 9: PM).                                      |
| 17th             |              | Stated Communication of Swartsel Lodge – Dinner @ 6:30 PM, Lodge Opens at 7:30 PM.       |
| 18 <sup>th</sup> |              | Third Friday FULL Menu Fish Fry at J.F. Swartsel Lodge – Serving from 5: PM until 8: PM. |
| 19 <sup>th</sup> | 9:00 AM      | Outdoor Degree at the Masonic Park and Youth Camp.                                       |
| 20 <sup>th</sup> | 11:00        | Masonic Home Meeting, Church 10: AM.   |
| 21st             | 7:30 PM      | Friendship Chapter 209 OES, Stated Meeting.  |
| 25th             | 7: PM        | Masters & Wardens/Memorial Lodge meeting @ John Darling 154.                             |
| 26 <sup>th</sup> | 9: AM – Noon | Zone 6 School of instruction @ Tampa Scottish Rite                                       |

These are the available pictures of your 2016 officers



W.M.: Danny Valdez



Br. Marty Greif – J.W.



Br. Frank Penny - Chaplain



W.: Stuart Graff - Historian



W.: David Lambert - Secretary



W.: Jerry Snell – S.D.



Br. Sam McPherson - J.S.



Br. Derek DeGain – J.D.



Br. Kevin Duhaime - Tyler

## 2016 Lodge Officers

### Worshipful Master

Danilo "Danny" O. Valdez  
[Danny842@hotmail.com](mailto:Danny842@hotmail.com)  
(813) 833-7339

### Senior Warden

R.:W.: Charles "Sam" Pesola  
[sampes@verizon.net](mailto:sampes@verizon.net)  
(813) 293-3581

### Junior Warden

Martin A. Greif  
[martin@privacypartners.com](mailto:martin@privacypartners.com)  
(813) 334-3867

### Secretary

W.: David B. Lambert, Sr.  
[dlambert7907@gmail.com](mailto:dlambert7907@gmail.com)  
(813) 996-4001

### Treasurer

Brian P. Stricker  
[bpstricker@gmail.com](mailto:bpstricker@gmail.com)  
(813) 833-9630

### Senior Deacon

W.: Jerry M. Snell, Jr.  
[jsnell@verizon.net](mailto:jsnell@verizon.net)  
(813) 309-4711

### Junior Deacon

Derek DeGain  
[derekdegain@gmail.com](mailto:derekdegain@gmail.com)  
(813) 514-2618

### Senior Steward

Wassam "Sam" Itani  
[Samitani@yahoo.com](mailto:Samitani@yahoo.com)  
(813) 297-7523

### Junior Steward

Sam McPherson  
[smcpherson@verizon.net](mailto:smcpherson@verizon.net)  
(813) 240-9038

### Chaplain

Frank E. Penney  
[GEPFEP@aol.com](mailto:GEPFEP@aol.com)  
(813) 830-3436

### Tyler

Kevin Duhaime  
[kevin.duhaime@hp.com](mailto:kevin.duhaime@hp.com)  
(813) 285-8421

### Marshal

W.: Jeffrey P. Sklet  
[jtsklet@yahoo.com](mailto:jtsklet@yahoo.com)  
(813) 482-5236

### Historian

W.: Stuart J. Graff  
[sgraff2@gmail.com](mailto:sgraff2@gmail.com)  
(813) 924-3215

### Musician

John S. Nagy  
[john2013@coach.net](mailto:john2013@coach.net)  
(813) 949-0718

Please remember your Lodge Boosters and  
thank them

R.:W.: Ronald E. Stanley   R.:W.: Donald R. Bell   Mark L. Lager  
Daniel Allen   Brad Sollberger   Ernest P. Sidlow

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