

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



Published monthly Volume LXXX Issue No. 10 October 2016 AD, 6016 AL

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

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

The 5th Thursday night of the month is reserved for Family night at the lodge

3109 Lutz Lake Fern Road, Lutz FL 33558 Mail: P.O. Box 1475, Lutz FL 33548-1475

Email: info@JFSwarsel251.org

Website: www.jfswarsel251.org Phone: 813-949-4814

Facebook: ww.facebook.com/jfswarsel251

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



From The Books of the Book – Numbers– by Clarence H. Cohen, PGM of Georgia

This is the fourth of the "Five books of Moses." The book of Numbers contains a history of the Israelites from the beginning of the second month of the second year after their departure of Egypt to the beginning of the eleventh month of the fortieth year of their journeying; that is a period of thirty eight years and about nine months.

It is called Numbers because it contains an account of the enumerating of the people, or a census. The first four chapters of the book are devoted to it. A second numbering was taken some thirty eight years later at the conclusion of their wanderings.

The name of the book also means "In the Wilderness." It is the story of a people able to get out of Egypt in a few days but never able to completely get Egypt out of their lives for many years. It took nearly forty years of wandering in the "Wilderness" before they finally threw off the yoke of bondage fastened on their bonds and spirits by four hundred years of slavery in Egypt and were able to become self-reliant as a people. It takes time to train a people to keep the covenant. We should bear this in mind today when the emerging nations are throwing off the yoke of slavery. To free them without first preparing them only leads to slaughter. Our modern reformers should study the "Book of Numbers."

It also records the rituals, laws and regulations of the people. It is a dark record of the struggles of the Israelites who only through trial, error and hardships attained spiritual growth and learned to trust in a God of mercy and compassion.

Numbers is best understood if divided into three parts. Chapters 1 to 10:10 tell of the preparation for the sojourn into the "Wilderness." Chapters 10:11 to 18:21 relate the events that take place as the Israelites move to the borders of Canaan, the discontent in the Wilderness, the subsistence of manna and the complaints of the people. Also described is the penalty for gluttony and rebellion. Twelve scouts were sent to spy out the land of Promise. Only two reported favorably and insisted with the faith in God, victory was assured. The people agreed with the other ten and because of a lack of faith in God they were required to return to the Wilderness and wander for many more years.

Chapters 20 to 36 are an account of the last year of wilderness living and the taking of the second Census. Also recorded in this section is the famous story of Balaam. Chapter 20 records the death of Aaron.

The book closes with instructions concerning the division of the Land of Canaan, (in the Old Testament this was the name for the land between the Jordan and the Mediterranean, and from Egypt to Syria) the appointment of Joshua as Moses successor and the designation of six cities as "Cities of Refuge."

One of the best known and widely used blessings is found in Numbers 6:24-26. Why not read it?

As a Mason you have been counted and recorded as set apart from the profane world. You must also learn by going through trials. You must have faith if you would travel in foreign countries and receive that which was lost.

Are you still wandering in the wilderness of apathy and indolence? Are you lusting only for the social fleshpots of Masonry or will you be content to eat the manna of knowledge? Many members of the Masonic fraternity reach the Masonic Jordan but never seem to be able to cross it.

Your Catechism Instructors for the three symbolic degrees in freemasonry are:

R:.W: Sam Pesola, W:. David Lambert, Sr., W:. Jerry Snell, Jr, W:. Jeff Sklet, W:. Stuart Graff,

Brother Sam McPherson

From the desk of the editor

Even though our elections are not for another couple of months, it is not too early to begin thinking about those that you would like to see in a position of authority to run your lodge for the next year. Just think about it. The times of automatic advancement through the chairs has passed. It may not be to your liking or it may not even have your approval, but had enough liking and approval to be passed at the Grand Communication and took place last year. Remember that ONLY those brothers whose names have been submitted to the Secretary before the opening of the meeting in which you are to vote can be voted upon. There cannot be any nominations from the floor and the brother whose name has been submitted MUST have agreed to serve the lodge and the brethren in the upcoming year in the office which he has been elected. Along with it comes the responsibility of his office and he has agreed to face all of his responsibilities to his fullest and best ability. When it is your time to vote, please vote for the good of the lodge, as well as the good of the fraternity. Between now and then, I only ask that you carefully consider your responsibility and take a careful look at those brothers that are in the running. It is your lodge and your leadership. Who do you want there?



Comments from the Craft



You continue to amaze and please me with your articles and Masonic insight. Thank you

Our suppers have really been great this year; especially the supper for the DDGM's official visit. Real dishes and silverware were used. Terrific

The Past Masters supper this year was marvelous. Thank you from the bottom of my heart as well as my stomach.

The family nights are improved thanks to the newly formed "Entertainment" committee. I am happy to bring others.

Our building fund is greatly benefitting from our raffles. Great work. Thanks

Chair Chatter

From the Secretary: W.: David B. Lambert, Sr.

Brethren, this year is coming to a close and soon we will have an election for new officers for 2017. As I look back on all of our accomplishments, hard work, fun and fellowship it makes me proud to be a member of J.F. Swartzel Lodge. Not only have we improved the Lodge with a new Roof and Gutters (among other things) but we have a bunch of newly made Masons that we have the pleasure of calling our brothers. I know that it's hard for some to make it to the meeting but it sure is nice to see you in Lodge, or as Masons say (Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity). Brothers I will be sending out the 2017 Dues notices in October if you haven't sent your 2016 Dues in, please do so. And if you are having any health problems or financial difficulties that would prevent you from paying your Dues please call me or email me. There is no reason for a brother to be in the rears in his Dues when his brother Masons are here to help aid and assist him. All he has to do is pick up the phone and call, there is no reason for a brother to lose the benefits of being a mason like going to Lodge or Lodges and being with his fellow brothers, or the Benefit of the Masonic home for not only himself but his spouse and so on. Brothers, we have all been in destitute circumstances before please give me a call.

As always thank you for your time and support as Brother Masons.

This year is coming to a close and I hope to see you at Lodge.

Important Lodge Dates: October 2016

- 1st Master Mason I, II, and III from 9:00 AM - Noon @ Swartzel**
- 3rd 7:30 PM Friendship Chapter 209 OES, Meeting**
- 5th District School of Instruction @ John Darling No.154, 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM**
- 6th Stated Communication of Swartzel Lodge Dinner @ 6:30 PM, Lodge Opens at 7:30 PM.**
- 14th Masonic Park Meeting @ Tampa No.240, 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM**
- 16th Masonic Home Meeting, Church @ 10:00 AM, Meeting @ 11:00 AM**
- 17th 7:30 PM Friendship Chapter 209 OES, Meeting**
- 19th Lodge Officers Training @ John Darling No.154 (7:00 PM – 9:00 PM)**
- 20th Stated Communication of Swartzel Lodge Dinner @ 6:30 PM, Lodge Opens at 7:30 PM.**
- 21st Third Friday FULL Menu Fish Fry at J.F. Swartzel Lodge – Serving from 5 - 8: PM.**
- 28th Masters & Wardens/Memorial Lodge meeting @ John Darling No.154, 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM**
Memorial Lodge to follow.
- 29th Widows Luncheon, 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM, Red Lobster @ 11601 N. Dale Mabry Hwy, Tampa.**

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

Brothers we honored our Past Masters with a steak dinner, which was cooked perfectly by Brother R.: W.: Sam Pesola. Attendance was good but it could have been better. We all owe a debt of gratitude to our Past Masters for their part in making this a Lodge to be proud of.

Brothers look toward some of the Lodges that are failing and give some thought to why, and take a good look at Circumscribe. This is the future of Masonry and our Brother Secretary Worship David Lambert has put a lot of effort in putting this all together. If you still need help he will be glad to assist you.

I want to send a message of gratitude to Cindy and Patrice for the help they have given us in the kitchen. Because of their efforts we were able to have the different functions in the Lodge. To those Brothers that are always there for us, I want to thank you; without your support nothing would ever get done.

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

Brothers, it is coming to the time of our Masonic year when we need to look forward to next year. Anyone who wants to run for elective office, needs to be contacting our Secretary, W.: David Lambert, to fill out the proper nomination forms.

Those who wish to be appointed officers next year need to be contacting me, the Senior Warden, Sam Pesola, the presumptive Worshipful Master elect. Brothers, you need to let us know if you are willing to serve the Lodge next year. With your help going forward, we can continue the great work of W.: Danny Valdez and his officers, and move the Lodge into the future.

Please join with me to make J. F. Swartsel No. 251 F & AM the best Lodge in or District, if not the State. With your help we can accomplish this goal and serve the Fraternity, our community, and God. And remember Brothers, when abroad in the world, you, and your actions, are someone's impression of Masons and Masonry.

From the Junior Warden's station: Brother Marty Grief

My Brothers, in September we hosted the District Deputy Grand Master for a night of fellowship and fun. The DDGM and his traveling companions commented on how welcome they felt at our lodge and at the number of Brothers in attendance. I'd like to thank you for your support that evening!

There are a couple of activities in October that I would like to bring to your attention:

- On October 1st at 9:00 we are having a Master Mason I, II, & III class. If you have not been to one, or you have not been to one in a while, I would recommend joining your Brothers.
- On October 5th, we have the District School of Instruction at John Darling Lodge. Again this is an opportunity to learn more about Masonry so I encourage you to attend.

If you are not sure where or when any of our events are, just check out the lodge calendar on our website at www.jfswartsel251.org. We post events from our lodge as well as others.

On another topic, we're changing the format of our Dinning out with the Masons. Until now these have been held monthly at various restaurants around the area. We are moving to a quarterly calendar going forward and we are going to announce the "heck" out of it so we can increase attendance. On our first dinning out we had approximately 70 Masons with their friends and/or family. It was a huge success so we're going back to the formula of making it a special event. Stay tuned to next month's trestle board for more details.



Masonic Eyeglass Donation

To all brethren of J. F. Swartsel lodge #251- - We are planning a donation of used eyeglasses and eyeglass cases to The Masonic Home as a charitable event. Anything that you can do to help make this a success will be appreciated. A special collection box has been conveniently placed for your donations. Please make use of it.

September 22nd, 2016 – Fellowcraft degree at J.F. Swartsel lodge. Brothers Ian Patrick Dundas Helpfrey,

Edward Stephen Bush and John Thomas Bates.



2016 Lodge Officers

Worshipful Master

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

Senior Warden

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

Junior Warden

Martin A. Greif
martin@privacypartners.com
(813) 334-3867

Secretary

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

Treasurer

Brian P. Stricker
bpstricker@gmail.com
(813) 833-9630

Senior Deacon

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

Junior Deacon

Derek DeGain
derekdegain@gmail.com
(813) 514-2618

Senior Steward

Wassam "Sam" Itani
Samitani@yahoo.com
(813) 297-7523

Junior Steward

Sam McPherson
smcpherson@verizon.net
(813) 240-9038

Chaplain

Frank E. Penney
GEPFEP@aol.com
(813) 830-3436

Tyler

Kevin Duhaime
kevin.duhaime@hp.com
(813) 285-8421

Marshal

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

Historian

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

Musician

John S. Nagy
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

Please remember to support your Trestleboard advertisers. They will appreciate knowing where their business is coming from and continue their sponsorship.

Tasers 4 Me

Pestex

First Responders Financial

Blitzkrieg Paintball

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