

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

## Trestleboard



Published monthly Volume LXXXIX Issue No. 12 December 2014AD, 6014AL

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

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

## Masonic Education

Submitted by W.: Stuart Graff



### Relative to Masonry during the Colonial Period and the Revolutionary War

Q) Who was the first native born American to be made a Mason? A) Jonathan Belcher. Born in Boston in 1681 and graduated from Harvard about 1699. During a visit to England he received his Masonic Degrees in 1704. He was governor of Massachusetts and New Hampshire for over ten years, and was a man of standing in civil and political life.

Q) Who was the first Mason recorded as coming to this country and when? A) John Moore, The King's collector at the port of Philadelphia, who in a letter to James Sandilands, Esq. of Chester, Pa., wrote under date of March 10<sup>th</sup>, 1715, "Ye winter has been very long and dull and we have had no mirth or pleasure except a few evenings spent in festivity with my Masonic Brethren".

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

**Masonic Education: Chair Chatter; Lodge News & Events;  
Calendar of Important Events; Lodge Officers; Sponsors;  
Website Information (www.jfswartsel251org.)**

A very special thank you from all of us goes out to Damian at Designs Plus for all of your signs and Printing. He is located at 26612 Magnolia Blvd in Lutz, FL 33559. You can call him at (813) 994 - 6006 or stop in to see him for his ever ready smile and willingness to print your order. He does this with love and respect to our Fraternity regardless of profitability. Please keep him and his business in mind for any of your printing needs, be they special to you or not

because they are to him.

**From the desk of your editor – W:. Stuart Graff.**

**If you have ANY questions or concerns about the changes made in your Trestleboard, or if you would like to contribute an article please don't hesitate to let me know. This is YOUR Trestleboard; I am only the conduit to let you know what is happening in our lodge. I can be reached by phone at (813) 924-3215 or by e-mail at [sgraff2@gmail.com](mailto:sgraff2@gmail.com) and I look forward to hearing from you.**

**I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Brother “Danny” Valdez for all of the work that he has put in to make your meals as enjoyable as possible. When he was elected Junior Warden he had to try to figure out how to do his job on a very limited budget. I commend him for figuring it all out and getting it right. He has told me that he will still be able to help with the monthly fish fry, and, believe me, that is a BIG relief. Whoever is elected to that station next year has a big pair of shoes to fill. See the picture below of W:. M:. Sklet celebrating his 45<sup>th</sup> birthday.....**



## **Chair Chatter**

### **From the East – W.: M.: – Jeffrey T. Sklet**

My Brothers, not only is this the last article of the year for me but it is also the last one I will probably write in a long, long while. It is a bittersweet event. It has been a long journey from sitting outside the door, as the Tyler, to sitting in the East as the Worshipful Master. There are a lot of people that have helped me during that time. Starting with W.: Ron Speaks and Brother Dan Valdez. These two Brothers first got me interested in Masonry. I am very fortunate and thankful to have met them when I did. I would like to thank the 2014 Officers. They made my year as Worshipful Master very easy. They were always there to help and lend wise counsel when it was needed. After them, it is every other Brother that I came in contact with at Swartsel. Our Fraternity, in general and our Lodge in particular, is truly blessed to have so many good men as members. As long as the Craft stays involved and helps the Lodge Officers, the future of J.F. Swartsel will always be bright! I look forward to seeing some old faces at our first meeting in December. Remember Brothers, this is the meeting where we will elect those Lodge Officers. Come on out and get some Brunswick stew. It has been a long journey but a very fun one. I look forward to helping out where ever I can in the future. I hope you all have a very merry Holiday Season and Happy New Year! Again, Brothers, THANK YOU!

### **From the West – S. W. - Brother Chuck Osborne**

I want to thank the Brothers that came out for our Stated Communication on October 16<sup>th</sup> and witnessed the presentation of 40 year pins and certificates to Brother George Clark and Brother Charlie McBride. What an honor to be sitting in the East for those presentations, especially when Brother Clark is also my Father-In-Law. My Brothers, it's that time again when you need to start thinking about the Brothers you want to lead your Lodge in the coming year. Our elections are scheduled for our Stated Meeting on Dec. 4<sup>th</sup>. We will be voting for Worshipful Master, Senior and Junior Wardens, Treasurer, and Secretary. Please plan to attend and participate in this important event. The future of your Lodge depends on it!

### **From the South – J. W. – Brother Danny Valdez**

My Brother's we are nearing the end of the year and a lot will be happening. During our first meeting in Dec. we will be voting for our elected Officer's for 2015; please don't feel that your vote doesn't matter.....because it does and it is important. Choose the candidate you feel will do the best job for you and the lodge during the coming year. The installation of Officer's near the end of the month is a traditional and moving ceremony. Please attend as I'm sure you will enjoy it. We need to stand behind all of the Officer's in the Lodge and show our support for these men who represent our Fraternity as well as your Lodge wherever they go.

Thanksgiving is behind us and I am sure that each of you had a wonderful celebration of family unity and giving of Grace to our Supreme Being for the wonders He has bestowed on us.

May the coming Holidays fill your hearts with joy, peace and harmony. May the New Year bring you prosperity, happiness and good will to "All Mankind".

## FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK:

There are Five (5) out there who have not yet paid your 2014 Dues. Final Notice and Summons have been mailed and if your Dues are not paid by December 27<sup>th</sup>, 2014 (for the year of 2014) or a valid reason why they ARE NOT paid - According to the Digest of Masonic Law Chapter 24, Paragraph 4.01 you will be suspended.

Brothers, as you must know - Lodge Officer elections occurs ANNUALLY during the first Communication in December. If you attend and cast your vote, you exercise your right to select the NEW leaders of your Lodge. If not, you must live with the Leadership that someone else selects. Hopefully, each of you will be present on December 4, 2014 to help select YOUR NEW leaders.

### IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER FOR DECEMBER:

3<sup>rd</sup> District School of Instruction at John Darling Lodge 7:00 pm

4<sup>th</sup> Stated Communication of Swartsel Lodge - Dinner at 6:30 pm, Lodge opens at 7:30 pm

#### **ELECTION OF 2015 LODGE OFFICERS ( SOMETIME DURING THE MEETING)**

6<sup>th</sup> Grand Master's Official Visit to Districts 22 & 23 at Tampa Scottish Rite, Registration starts at 5:00 pm, Dinner at 6:00 pm, Ladies Program and the Tyled Masonic meeting at 7:00 pm

11<sup>th</sup> Entered Apprentice Degree at Swartsel Lodge. Dinner at 6:30 pm, Lodge opens at 7:30 pm

12<sup>th</sup> Masonic Park Board of Directors monthly meeting at Tampa Lodge 240 7:00 pm

**14<sup>th</sup> Widows Lunch at Red Lobster, 11601 N Dale Mabry Hwy, Tampa 1:00 pm**

18<sup>th</sup> Stated Communication of Swartsel Lodge - Dinner at 6:30 pm, Lodge opens at 7:30 pm

19<sup>th</sup> Masters & Wardens Meeting at **JOHN DARLING LODGE No 154** 7:00 pm

19<sup>th</sup> **MONTHLY FISH FRY IS CANCELLED DUE TO CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS**

20<sup>th</sup> Monthly meeting of Memorial Lodge No. 23 at Fellowship Lodge No. 265 10:00 am

21<sup>st</sup> Masonic Home Board of Directors meeting at the Home 11:00 am

### DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1 <sup>st</sup> Walter Bartsch	10 <sup>th</sup> Clayton Eller	24 <sup>th</sup> Stanley James
3 <sup>rd</sup> Richard Peck, III	14 <sup>th</sup> Marvin Snyder	Douglas Haeberlein
Mark Lager	17 <sup>th</sup> George Clark	Grant Rice
5 <sup>th</sup> James Kirby	20 <sup>th</sup> Walter Scott	28 <sup>th</sup> John Nelson
7 <sup>th</sup> Marcos Barabin	22 <sup>nd</sup> Bahram Hedayat	Lewis McAbee
8 <sup>th</sup> Mark Campbell	23 <sup>rd</sup> Robert Williams	Glenn McLemore

**DECEMBER MASONIC ANNIVERSARY'S**

2 <sup>nd</sup> Joseph Wells	16 <sup>th</sup> Paul Sidlo	21 <sup>st</sup> Camilo Colon
Ernest Sidlo	Gene Murray	Frank Cothron
5 <sup>th</sup> Doyle Mullins, Jr.	Robert Parrish, Jr.	27 <sup>th</sup> Jerry Robbins
8 <sup>th</sup> James Lambert	17 <sup>th</sup> Brad Sollberger	Robert Parrish, Sr.
10 <sup>th</sup> Jeffrey Sklet	18 <sup>th</sup> Marlin Mullins	30 <sup>th</sup> Robert Mogyorosy
13 <sup>th</sup> Daniel Mattsen	Richard Markland	

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## 2014 Lodge Officers

### Worshipful Master

Jeffrey T. Sklet

[jtsklet@yahoo.com](mailto:jtsklet@yahoo.com)

813-482-5236

### Senior Warden

Charles C. Osborne, Sr.

[brotherchuckosborne@gmail.com](mailto:brotherchuckosborne@gmail.com)

813-909-1618

### Junior Warden

Danny Valdez

[Dannv842@hotmail.com](mailto:Dannv842@hotmail.com)

813-833-7339

### Treasurer

W.: David B. Lambert, Sr.

[Dlambert7907@gmail.com](mailto:Dlambert7907@gmail.com)

813-996-4001

### Secretary

R.W.: Donald R. Bell

[donaldbell@verizon.net](mailto:donaldbell@verizon.net)

813-932-5832

### Senior Deacon

Jordan S. Pongase

[jspongase@email.com](mailto:jspongase@email.com)

727-488-9126

### Junior Deacon

Brian P. Stricker

[bpstricker@gmail.com](mailto:bpstricker@gmail.com)

813-833-9630

### Senior Steward

Marty Greif

[martin@privacypartners.com](mailto:martin@privacypartners.com)

813-334-3867

### Junior Steward

Brian Todd Johnson, Sr

[Brian.sr.johnson@gmail.com](mailto:Brian.sr.johnson@gmail.com)

813-388-1623

### Chaplain

Frank E. Penny

[GEPFEP@aol.com](mailto:GEPFEP@aol.com)

813-830-3436

### Tyler

Gregory L. Gough

[Gregory.gough@yahoo.com](mailto:Gregory.gough@yahoo.com)

478-955-2794

### Marshall

W.: Jerry M. Snell, Jr.

[jsnell@verizon.net](mailto:jsnell@verizon.net)

813-309-4711

### Historian

W.: Ron Speaks

[poppyspeaks@msn.com](mailto:poppyspeaks@msn.com)

813-365-0101

### Musician

John S. Nagy

[John2013@coach.net](mailto:John2013@coach.net)

813-949-0718

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Helping  
To  
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Your  
Dues  
Down

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R.: W.: Donald R. Bell

Ernest P. Sidlow

James F. Allison

Mark L. Lager

Daniel Allen

OUR NEXT  
FISH FRY  
WILL BE

FRIDAY

JAN.

16TH

2015

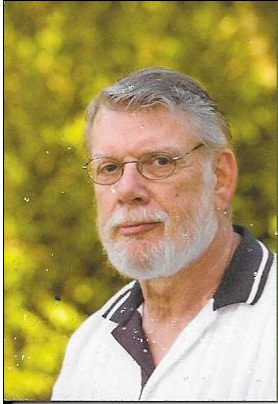
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2130 Ashley Oaks Circle, Suite 101, Wesley Chapel, FL 33504  
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