



J. F. Swartsel Lodge No. 251 F. & A.M



TRESTLE BOARD

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STATED COMMUNICATIONS: 1st & 3rd Thursdays Dinner 6:30 PM - Meeting 7:30PM

Masonic Education

The Raising of a Candidate



The Expression, Raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason, is little understood outside our Fraternity. It refers, of course, to a part of the ceremony of the Degree itself. Symbolically, however, it presents a resurrection after death and Masonic faith in the immortality of the soul.

The Master Mason Degree is the sublime climax of Symbolic Freemasonry. If the initiate finds in it only the living, dying and raising of a Master as a literal drama, which is designed to teach the virtues of inflexible fidelity and fortitude, he has received only partial light and seen nothing, but a drama with a moral. This Sublime Degree is far more than that, for it seeks to answer the age-old question

uttered by Job, "If a man dies, shall he live again?"

P.G.M. Carl H. Claudy aptly describes some of the great lessons of and purposes of the Degree in his *Introduction to Freemasonry*:

"The degree delves into the deepest recesses of man's nature. While it leads the initiate into the Sanctum Sanctorum of the temple, it probes into the Holy of Holies in his heart."

"As a whole, the degree is symbolic of that old age by the wisdom of which we may enjoy the happy reflections consequent on a well-spent life and die in the hope of a glorious immortality."

"...It is at once the universal and yearning question of man throughout all ages – and its answer. It teaches no creed, no dogma, not religion, only that there is a hope of immortality; there is an Architect by whose mercy we may live again; leaving to each brother his choice of interpretation by which he may read the Great Beyond."

"It teaches the power – and the powerless – of evil. For those who are happy in a belief in the resurrection of the physical body, which Paul has taught, the degree assures of all that the longing heart can wish."

When the lesson of the greatest hope and dearest wish of all mankind is made manifest, the

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For Masonic Birthdays, Anniversaries And Additional Articles

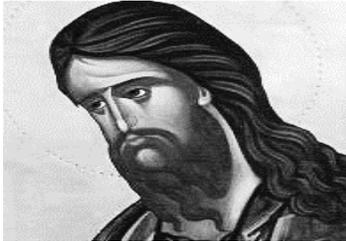
www.jfswarsel251.org

Sublime Degree turns to this life and this brotherhood, and in the symbolism of the Lion, the exposition of the Five Points of Fellowship, the means by which a mason may claim all that a man may from his brother, and the Word, ties together the Hiram Legend and daily living in a manner which no thoughtful man may see and hear without a thrill; a way at once awe-inspiring and heartening, terrible yet beautiful, sternly uncompromising yet strangely comforting."

"...The ceremony is not of earth, earthy, but of that land of the inner life, that home of the sprite where each man thinks the secret thoughts he tells never-never."

Source: *The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons, "Mentor's Manual."*

St. John the Baptist Patron Saint of Freemasonry



By history, custom, tradition and ritualistic requirements, the Craft holds in veneration the Festival Days of St. John the Baptist on June 24th, and St. John the Evangelist on December 27th. Any Blue Lodge that forgets either of these important Festival Days forfeits a precious link with the past and loses an opportunity for the renewal of allegiance to everything in Freemasonry symbolized by these Patron Saints.

No satisfactory explanation has yet been advanced to explain why operative Masons adopted these two particular Christian saints, when, for example, St. Thomas, the patron of architecture and building, was already in wide use.

Regardless, Freemasons agree that the choice of these two ancient Brethren was, indeed, wise. No other two great teachers, wise men, or saints could have been found who better exemplified through their lives and works the sublime doctrine and ageless teachings of Freemasonry.

Chair Chatter

From The EAST

The big news is Grand Lodge has come and gone. Please, come out to the June 5th meeting to hear the results of the voting. I want to thank everyone who came out to the Family night.

I also want to thank the Brothers who came out for the workday. We were few in number but we covered a lot of projects. We replaced the lights that shine on the building and the flags. We switched to LED and added an electric eye. So the lights should be more efficient. We installed the safety rail for the stairs in the East. We cleaned up the oil from the fish fry. We swept and cleaned the floors. Br. Dan went through the two refrigerators and pantry and cleaned them out good. We tried to get all the cob webs and wasp nests we could. We will have another work day in the fall before the DDGM visit to clean up some more. I hope we get more participation.

We will need to start practicing again for some upcoming Degrees. We will be working on the FC Degree. Please send me an email at jtsklet@yahoo.com, if you like to participate.

I encourage you to go to our Facebook page and website to stay up to date on any other dates. I look forward to seeing you in Lodge.

Jeff Sklet, Worshipful Master

From The WEST

June is here and we have just finished with the 2014 Grand Communication in Orlando. It was great to renew old

friendships and make new ones. I find that attending the Grand Communications helps to recharge my "Masonic battery" and recommits me to this wonderful Fraternity. I always come away with a few good ideas that have potential to improve our Lodge in several ways. If you have never been to a Grand Communication or it has been a while since your last attendance, I strongly encourage you to consider joining me next year at the 2015 Grand Communication in Jacksonville.

I want to thank all the Brothers that were present at our Stated Communication on May 15th and shared in my first experience in the East. I am very happy to confirm that except for a few hesitations on my part, everything went smoothly and no one was hurt!

See you at Lodge!

Fraternally,

Chuck Osborne, Senior Warden

From The SOUTH

My Brothers we have a family night around the corner. It is a night of fellowship with our families. Your attendance is greatly appreciated.

My first trip to the Grand Lodge in Orlando is something I'm really looking forward to. I will do my best to represent all the Brothers in our Lodge.

The Ladies of Friendship Chapter 209 Order of the Eastern Star greatly appreciate the safety railing installed in the East, a big thank you from them. And thank you RW: Bell, excellent choice. May Brotherly Love prevail.

Fraternally

Danny Valdez, Junior Warden

From The SECRETARY'S DESK

By the time you read this, the 185th Grand Communication will have completed. Hopefully, ALL the Legislation that was presented and voted upon went the way that best serves the Craft and our Fraternity. As soon as a synopsis report comes out, it will be forwarded to the E-Mail address book that I have for everyone's review.

Our Monthly Fish Fry continues to come and go despite the fact that the workers are very sparse. Brothers, if you are able to lend a hand for these fundraising events, **YOUR HELP WILL BE MOST APPRECIATED.** Additionally, if you can't come out to lend a hand, come out and financially support the event. You can enjoy some GREAT fellowship and food.

If you haven't yet paid your 2014 Dues, it is time to write that dreaded check and mail it in. On July 1, 2014, I am required to mail LATE notices to those who are six (6) months in arrears with their dues. Please help me relax a little by sending in your 2014 dues payment before that date.

The College Scholarship recipients as selected by the Committee for 2014 are: Makalia Howell of Sickles High and Andrew Keith of Steinbrenner High. Congratulations go to both of them.

A "THANK YOU" goes to the Brothers who showed up for the work day on May 17th. Two projects that were really needed were successfully completed. The Hand Rails in the East were installed and the light to the flag was rewired and an LED light was installed. ALL lights on the roof in front of the building are to come on at dusk and remain on until dawn. The lights on the

porch in front of the building are now under control of a switch inside the building.

Fraternally,

Donald R. Bell, Secretary

**Please See PAGE 4 for
UPCOMING LODGE
DATES and EVENTS**

From FRIENDSHIP CHAPTER #209

Nothing From Friendship
Chapter This Month

Lodge News And Events

Report on Petitions for the Three Symbolic Degrees



For the Three Degrees from
Mr. Derek Justin DeGain

In Hand but not yet received
(awaiting Waiver of
Jurisdiction)

For Plural Membership from
**Bro. Raymond Joseph
Ciunci** of John Darling Lodge
No. 154

Received and referred to
Investigation



THE NEXT FISH FRY IS...

**Friday, June 20th
5PM - 8PM**

**Take-Out \$8.00
Eat-In (All You Can Eat) \$10**

*Tell Your Friends and
Neighbors and Join Us for
Fun, Fellowship and Great
Food!*



JF Swartzel members and their families enjoying themselves at the annual Widows Luncheon on Saturday May 3rd, 2014.

Calendar of IMPORTANT LODGE DATES

JUNE 2014

4TH	District School of Instruction at John Darling Lodge	7:00 pm
5th	Stated Meeting of Swartsel Lodge, Dinner served at 6:30 pm - Lodge opens at	7:30 pm
13th	Masonic Park BOD meeting at Tampa Lodge 240	7:00 pm
19th	Stated Meeting of Swartsel Lodge, Dinner served at 6:30 pm - Lodge opens at	7:30 pm
20th	Third Friday Fish Fry at Swartsel Lodge	Serving from 5:00 pm until 8:00 pm
21st	Monthly meeting of Memorial Lodge No. 23 at Fellowship Lodge	10:00 am
22nd	Masonic Home BOT meeting at the Home	11:00 am
27th	Masters & Wardens meeting at Fellowship Lodge	7:00 pm

2014 Lodge Officers

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Mark R. Lager

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Version at www.jfswartsel251.org after
February 1st for a listing of **JUNE**
BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES, PAST
MASTERS and additional **ARTICLES OF**
INTEREST