

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

## Trestleboard



Published monthly Volume LXXXIX Issue No. 9 September 2014

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 Family night

## Masonic Education



What is a Mason?

Definition by the Masonic Renewal Committee of North America

Published 3/23/2008. Submitted by W.:. Stuart J. Graff

This is not a surprising question. Even though Masons (Freemasons) are members of the largest and oldest fraternity in the world, and even though almost everyone has a father or grandfather or uncle who was a Mason, many people aren't quite certain just who Masons are.

The answer is simple. A Mason (or Freemason) is a member of a fraternity known as Masonry. A fraternity is a group of men (just as a group of women is called a sorority who join together because:

- There are things they want to do together in the world.
- There are things they want to do "inside their own minds."
- They enjoy being together with men they like and respect.

This brings me to the question: **What is Masonry?**

Masonry (or Freemasonry) is the oldest fraternity in the world. No one knows just how old it is because the actual origins have been lost in time. Probably it arose from the guilds of stonemasons who built the castles and cathedrals of the middle ages. Possibly they were influenced by the Knights Templar, a group of Christian warrior monks formed in 1118 to help protect pilgrims making trips to the Holy Land.

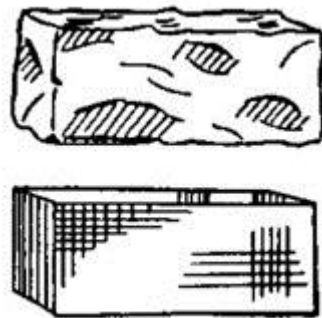
In 1717, Masonry created a formal organization in England when the first Grand Lodge was formed. A Grand Lodge is the administrative body in charge of Masonry in some geographical area. In the United States there is a Grand Lodge in each state and the District of Columbia. In Canada, there is a Grand Lodge in each province. Local organizations of Masons are called Lodges. There are lodges in most towns, and large cities usually have several. There are about 13,200 lodges in the United States.

### **What is a Lodge?**

The word "Lodge" means both a group of Masons meeting in some place and the room or building in which they meet. Masonic buildings are also sometimes called "Temples" because much of symbolism Masonry uses to teach its lessons come from the building of King Solomon's Temple in the Holy Land. The term "Lodge" itself comes from the structures which the stonemasons built against the sides of the cathedrals during construction. In winter, when building had to stop, they lived in these lodges and worked at carving stone. While there is some variation in detail from State to State and from Country to Country, every lodge has an Altar holding a "Volume of the Sacred Law." In the United States and Canada, that is almost always a Bible.

### **If Masonry started in Great Britain, how did it get to America?**

In a time when travel was by horseback and sailing ship, Masonry spread with amazing speed. By 1731, when Benjamin Franklin joined the fraternity, there were already several lodges in the colonies, and Masonry spread rapidly as America expanded west. In addition to Franklin, many of the founding fathers – men such as George Washington, Paul Revere, Joseph Warren and John Hancock – were Freemasons. Freemasons and Masonry played an important part in the Revolutionary War and an even more important part in the Constitutional Convention and the debates surrounding the ratification of the Bill of Rights. Many of those debates were held in Masonic Lodges.



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

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

# Chair Chatter

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

Congratulations to Derek Degain! He is J. F. Swartzel's newest E.A. Please give him a warm welcome and let him know that we are here for him. September is going to be a busy month for us. School is back in session so be careful on the roads and look out for the kids. You can also( please) bring any school supplies to our first meeting in September. We will deliver them to Mc Kitrick Elementary School shortly after the meeting. The Scottish Rite is doing a W:.M:. and youth appreciation night at the Scottish Rite building on Monday, Sept 8<sup>th</sup>. You should try to come out and support our youth. September 13<sup>th</sup> is the official homecoming of the Grand Master. It is being held at the Bayanihan Arts and Events Center. Here is the website for more information: <http://www.bayanihanartscenter.org/>. At our stated communication on the 18<sup>th</sup>, we will welcome R:.W:. Joseph Gonzalez, our current District Deputy Grand Master, for his official visit. If you can only make one meeting a year, this is the one you should try to attend. The officers will be wearing their white dinner jackets with the rest of the tux stuff. On September 19<sup>th</sup>, we will have our fish fry. I want to thank everyone who came out to help in August. Seeing the brothers rally when their lodge needed them was inspirational. I hope your enthusiasm continues into the future. On Sept. 29<sup>th</sup> our chapter of the Eastern Star will be receiving some important guests from the state level of their organization. If you do not have anything else going on you should try to attend.

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

School has started again and that means we need to make a special effort to get those school supplies purchased and brought to the lodge. Your donations are greatly appreciated by the students and staff and we would like to deliver them to McKitrick Elementary sometime during the first part of the month. The Grand Masters' homecoming is Saturday September 13<sup>th</sup> and we should all make an effort to attend to show our support for M:.W:. James Ford, Grand Master of Masons of Florida. I want to thank all of the brothers that answered W:. Sklet's 'call to arms' to help with our monthly fish fry. Everyone had a great time, our patrons enjoyed a great meal and good fellowship was had by all. Let's keep the momentum going and do it again this month. I also want to encourage all of our brothers to start attending our Stated communications again now that Summer is over. Brother Valdez is doing an excellent job of feeding the craft as well as arranging for interesting Masonic education for every meeting. If transportation is a problem, give me a call (813) 220-6126 and I will arrange for someone to pick you up and take you home after the meeting.

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

My brothers, school is in session so lets' keep a watchful eye out for the little ones trying to get on that big yellow bus. I want to congratulate our newest brother, Brother Derek Degain on completing the EA Degree. And another thank you to Temple Terrace Lodge for putting on a great EA Degree as well as courtesy work for us. Our last Fish Fry had a much better showing of brothers, Thank You All for the support. The rain hurt us as far as sales, but we still did okay. On our second communication of September 18<sup>th</sup>, we will have the honor of welcome R.W.D.D.G.M. Joseph Gonzalez. Let us support our Worshipful Master by having a good showing of brothers. I hate to keep harping on this, but it needs to be said. Without your support we are nothing. Please come and join us. Remember, what you get out of Masonry what you are willing to put into it.

**FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK – R.: W.: Donald R. Bell**

First, I would like to welcome our NEWEST Entered Apprentice Member - Brother DEREK JUSTIN DeGAIN. Brother Derek, I wish you the very BEST in your newest journey through life and in Free Masonry. May Good Fortune shine down upon you in all your future endeavors and may you enjoy your journey to its fullest.

Brothers, our DDGM R.:W.: Joseph Gonzalez will be making his first Official Visit to J. F. Swartzel on September 18, 2014. Wouldn't it be FANTASTIC if the sidelines are full to overflowing? Each of you have plenty of notice to make your plans to attend this meeting and show your RESPECT for the Office and to hear the messages presented. Hope to see each of you in attendance.

If my information is correct, the 2015 Dues Notices will have one additional line item listed this year. As was presented at Grand Communications this year, The Uniform By-Laws were changed to say that the Annual Per Capita Tax (payable by each Member to Grand Lodge) will be In ADDITION to the amount of each Lodge Dues.

Also, the Per Capita Tax was increased from \$14.00 to \$20.00 which was a \$6.00 increase. Grand Master Ford issued Ruling & Decision No.4 which stated that since the intent was only a \$6.00 increase, the INCREASE only would be listed as a separate Line Item on the 2015 Dues Notices. The Per Capita Tax must be paid along with the Lodge Dues. Fraternaly; Donald R. Bell- Secretary

**IMPORTANT DATES FOR SEPTEMBER**

1 <sup>st</sup>	Annual Labor Day Degree at John Darling Lodge No. 154	7:00 am
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Annual Table Lodge at Hillsborough Lodge No. 25	6:30 pm
3 <sup>rd</sup>	District School of Instruction at John Darling Lodge No. 154	7:00 pm
4 <sup>th</sup>	Stated Communication of Swartzel Lodge - Dinner served @ 6:30, Lodge opens @	7:30 pm
8 <sup>th</sup>	Annual Youth Appreciation I Honor WM night at Tampa Scottish Rite	7:00 pm
12 <sup>th</sup>	Monthly meeting of Masonic Park BOD at Tampa Lodge No. 240	7:00 pm
13 <sup>th</sup>	Grand Master Ford Home Coming at Bayanihan Arts & Events Center (Westchase)	5:00 pm
18 <sup>th</sup>	Stated Communication of Swartzel Lodge - Dinner served @ 6:30, Lodge opens @	7:30 pm
	<b>DDGM Official Visit to J.F. Swartzel Lodge</b>	
20 <sup>th</sup>	Monthly meeting of Memorial Lodge No. 23 at Fellowship Lodge No. 265	7:00pm
21 <sup>st</sup>	Monthly meeting of Masonic Home BOT at the Home	11:00 am
27 <sup>th</sup>	Zone School of Instruction at Tampa Scottish Rite	8:30am

**September Birthdays:**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Zachary Manning
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Donnel Cortright
- 3<sup>rd</sup> James Allison and Donald Carlyle
- 4<sup>th</sup> Jeffrey Thompson and Kenneth Yutor
- 13<sup>th</sup> McKinley Osborne
- 14<sup>th</sup> Ralph Krautheim
- 15<sup>th</sup> Kenneth Moore
- 24<sup>th</sup> Steven Crockett
- 26<sup>th</sup> Emmett Thompson and Robert Stein
- 27<sup>th</sup> Clifford Perdue II

SEPTEMBER MASONIC ANNIVERSARY'S

2 <sup>nd</sup> Kenneth Williams	43	7 <sup>th</sup> Martin Greif	1	15 <sup>th</sup> Dr. John Thayer	2
Norman Blankenship	43	Gregory Gough	1	Martin Elton	2
3 <sup>rd</sup> Kenneth Tutor	2	7 <sup>th</sup> Phillip Berg	1	16 <sup>th</sup> Richard Peck, III	28
4 <sup>th</sup> Stuart Graff	14	8 <sup>th</sup> Danilo Valdez	7	18 <sup>th</sup> Ralph Krautheim	45
7 <sup>th</sup> Clifford Perdue	29	Douglas Haberlein	7	23 <sup>rd</sup> Rand Seppelin	10
Clifford Perdue, II	29	Adam Daniel	7	Marcos Barabin	8
James Fullwood	29	Daniel Allen	7	24 <sup>th</sup> Donnel Cortright	9
Alvin Dash, Jr.	29	12 <sup>th</sup> Charles Pesola	34	25 <sup>th</sup> Jeffrey Clay	15
Arthur Baker, Jr.	29	15 <sup>th</sup> Roy Thornton	42	29 <sup>th</sup> Jeff Hofmeister	33
Brian Johnson, Sr.	1	Joseph Almaguer	22		

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

**Firstly I want to thank you for the opportunity of becoming the editor of your Trestleboard. It is indeed an honor and a privilege that I will not take lightly. I have a big pair of shoes to fill in trying to keep up with Brother Stricker and I hope you will be satisfied with what you receive. The format has changed a bit and I am hoping that it will be satisfactory to you. If you have ANY questions or concerns about this, 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 telephone at:**

**(813) 924-3215 or by e-mail at [sgraff2@gmail.com](mailto:sgraff2@gmail.com) I look forward to hearing you.**



It is the Mission of the Grand Secretary's Office is to provide speedy and accurate services to Florida Lodges and Grand Lodge Officers, while fulfilling the constitutional duties of the Grand Secretary.

The Grand Lodge of Florida has a secured portal which allows Lodges to view our Annual Directory, Order Supplies, Update Information in the Lodge Locator and Much More.



## 2014 Lodge Officers

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Junior Warden

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Thank  
Your  
Individual  
Sponsors  
For  
Helping  
To  
Keep  
Your  
Dues  
Down

R.: W.: Ronald E. Stanley

R.: W.: Donald R. Bell

Ernest P. Sidlow

James F. Allison

Mark L. Lager

OUR NEXT  
FISH FRY  
WILL BE ]

FRIDAY

SEP.

19<sup>TH</sup>

2014

FROM  
5 TO 8 PM

EAT IN  
\$10.00

TAKE OUT  
\$8.00

GOOD FOOD  
GOOD TIME

GREAT  
FELLOWSHIP

Our membership has increased this year

Our collective thanks go to several of our lodge brother-members for their understanding of the importance of having an ever growing active roster as well as being active in recruiting others to become Masons. After all, is it not true that without new blood in our fraternity we will eventually fold in upon its self and die away?

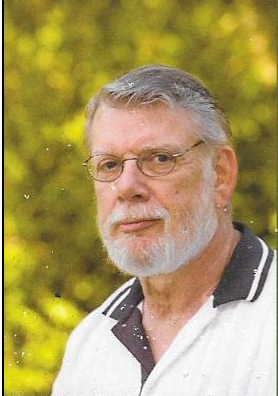
The following brothers have either become, or are in the process of becoming plural members of J.F. Swartsel Lodge: W.: Stuart Graff, Br. Ray Ciunci, Br. Bahram "Tony" Hedayat, Br. Ken Tutor and W.: Doyle Mullins, Jr.

Our newest Entered Apprentice  
Conferred at and by  
Temple Terrace Lodge  
As courtesy work  
For J.F. Swartsel  
Along with their own candidate



Photos courtesy of Brother Chris Tremble

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