

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



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

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

IN THIS ISSUE YOU WILL FIND....

Masonic Education: Chair Chatter; Lodge News & Events; Calendar of Important Events; Lodge Officers; Sponsors; Website Information (www.jfswartsel251.org.)

Masonic Education

Submitted by W:. Stuart Graff



Interpreting our symbols (Continued)

Let us assume that the symbolism of the Point Within a Circle is under discussion. One brother gives the interpretation so often heard that “the point represents the individual Brother, the Circle the boundary line of his duty.” This may be the complete answer for this Brother. At least, it is a reasonable interpretation.

Another, who may have read something of ancient religions, may counter: “This symbol refers to the old phallic religions, and the Point Within the Circle is a symbol of fecundity.” This may be the complete answer for this Brother, at least it is a reasonable interpretation.

A third may contend: “The Point represents the sun, which gives the earth the heat that is necessary for production, while the Circle represents the universe.” This may be the complete answer for this Brother, at least it is a reasonable interpretation.

A fourth may join by explaining: "The Point represents Deity, and the Circle, the endless universe." This may be the complete answer for this Brother, at least it is a reasonable interpretation.

A fifth may not be satisfied and offers his explanation: "The Point is a symbol of our Holy Altar and the Circle is symbolic of its circumambulation by the candidate." This may be the complete answer for this Brother, at least it is a reasonable interpretation.

A sixth may make this suggestion: "The Point is symbolic of the Master and Wardens, representing the sun in its three positions, while the Circle is symbolic of the universality of the lodge over which Masters and Wardens preside." This may be the complete answer for this Brother, at least it is a reasonable interpretation.

Each one of these Brothers has given a different interpretation, with some of these interpretations not closely resembling the others, but hasn't each one expressed an idea indicating that he has done some individual thinking and research? Hasn't each one, in imitation of the hunters discussing the stove on stilts, given a reasonable and acceptable interpretation?

No interpretation of a symbol, correct as it may be, is necessarily the only one. *Each Brother's serious interpretation of any symbol is the correct one so far as he is concerned.*

Our Freemasonry, at least a large part of it, is concealed in our symbols. Most of our symbols have numerous interpretations. To one Brother each symbol may mean one thing, to others it may mean several other things. That is one reason why Freemasonry can never be fully exposed to the profane.



From the Editors desk - - I want to once again thank all of my Brothers (as well as our non-masonic neighbors) for their understanding and co-operation with our fund raising efforts. The monthly fish fry is still going exceptionally well and we need to keep up this good work in the future. We have several ideas for fund raisers; but we are open to any suggestions that you may have. Please forward your ideas to your Secretary. Our most current fund raiser is for additional funds for our "Building Fund" We are selling raffle tickets for a mere \$5.00 each. The holder of the winning raffle ticket will become the proud owner of a brand new Ruger SR1911 Centerfire Pistol. The drawing will be held Thursday December 17th and you do NOT have to be present to win, however, since this is a meeting night - it would be nice if you were. Remember, you can get your raffle tickets from lodge member selling them. Supper starts at 6:30 and the meeting starts at 7:30.



Chair Chatter

From the Secretary's desk R.:W.: Don Bell

What a **BUSY** month we had in August (not that I am complaining). We conferred a Fellowcraft Degree, an Entered Apprentice Degree and held several practices for all three degrees. CONGRATULATIONS goes out to the ALL Newly obligated Brothers, no matter which Degree the Obligation was in.

DON'T FORGET BROTHERS, Bib Overall day is coming on September 19, 2015. In other words, it will be the Tenth Annual Farmer's Degree. Looks like we may have Five to Seven Brothers to Raise that day. Come out in support of the NEW Master Masons and enjoy some Brotherly Fellowship and good food. Lunch will be served following the Degree.

Brothers, We have started a Raffle as a Fundraiser in support of our Building Fund. The drawing will be held before the second Stated Communication in December. The winning ticket will be for a **RUGER® SR1911** Pistol. What a Christmas gift this will make for someone (even yourself). Tickets are \$ 5.00 each and should be available from any Lodge Member. **GET YOURS TODAY**. If all else fails, call your Secretary as he has a good (back-up) supply.

SEPTEMBER IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

- 2ND District School of Instruction at John Darling Lodge No 154 7:30 pm
- 2nd Stated Meeting of Swartsel Lodge Dinner served at 6:30 pm - Lodge opens at 7:30 pm
- 7th Labor Day Master Mason Degree at John Darling Lodge No. 154 7:00 am
- 11th Masonic Park BOD monthly meeting at Tampa Lodge No. 240 7:00 pm
- 14th Worshipful Master and Youth Group Recognition night at Tampa Scottish Rite
- 17th Stated Meeting of Swartsel Lodge **HAWAIIAN SHIRT NIGHT** Dinner served at 6:30 pm - Lodge opens at 7:30 pm
- 18th Third Friday Fish Fry at Swartsel Lodge Serving from 5:00 pm until 8:00 pm
- 19th Tenth Annual Farmers Degree at Swartsel - Coffee & Donuts at 8:30 am, Degree 9:00 am
- 20th Monthly Board of Trustees meeting at the Masonic Home 11:00 am
- 25th Monthly meeting of Masters & Wardens at John Darling Lodge No. 154 6:30 pm
- Monthly meeting of Memorial Lodge No. 23 at John Darling Lodge No. 154 - after M&W

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1 st John Scherer | 4 th Thomas Burkhiser | 14 th Ralph Krautheimer |
| Zachary Manning | Scott Thompson | 22 nd Wissam Itani |
| 2 nd Donnel Cortright | Kenneth Tutor | 24 th Steven Crockett |
| 3 rd James Allison | 9 th John Greene | 26 th Emmett Thompson |
| Donald Carlyle | 13 th McKinley Osborne | Robert Stein |

SEPTEMBER MASONIC ANNIVERSARYS

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 2 nd Norman Blankenship 44 | 7 th Gregory Gough 2 | 15 th Joseph Almaguer 23 |
| Kenneth Williams 44 | Martin Greif 2 | Martin Elton 3 |

3 rd	Kenneth Tutor	3	Brian Johnson, Sr	2	Dr. Thayer	3
4 th	Stuart Graff	15	8 th Daniel Allen	8	16 th Richard Peck, III	29
7 th	Arthur Baker, Jr.	30	Adam Daniel	8	18 th Ralph Krautheim	46
	Alvin Dash	30	Douglas Haeberlein	8	23 rd Rand Seppeli	11
	James Fullwood	30	Danilo Valdez	8	Marcos Barabin	9

From the East Brother Chuck Osborne, Worshipful Master

School has begun and we will be delivering our school supplies to McKitrick Elementary School the first week in September. I want to thank all the Brothers that helped to make this another successful year for our school supply donation campaign.

Last month we had our first ever "Bermuda Shorts" night at the Lodge and it was a great success. This month we are having our first ever "Hawaiian Shirt" night for our Stated Communication on Thursday, Sept. 17th. So grab that wild surfer shirt out of the closet and join us for great meal and good fellowship.

This month we will be holding a Master Mason Farmer's Degree on Saturday, Sept. 19th beginning at 9:00 am. We should have at least 3, but more likely 5 or 6 Brothers to raise that day. Please come out in your best overalls or blue jeans and be a part of this important step in these Brothers Masonic journey.

Finally, I don't want to forget about latest fund raiser. We are raffling a Ruger SR1911 Centerfire pistol on Thursday, Dec. 17th. Tickets are \$5 each and you do not have to be present to win and tickets may be purchased by Masons as well as non-Masons. I am asking all of our members to commit to selling at least 20 tickets so we can increase our funds in our building account to deal with our current air conditioning and roof problems.

My Brothers, this year is going fast and I hope you are experiencing as much fun as I am having! Remember, this is YOUR Fraternity. If you have any ideas or suggestions on how to make our Lodge better, please don't be bashful. Get involved!

From the West Brother Danny Valdez, Senior Warden

My Brother's be extra diligent in looking for the youngster that will be starting school on Monday, August 24th. These children will be nervous, excited, confused and missing their mommies.

August has been a very busy month, with Practices and Degrees, in the EA, FC and MM Degrees and this month promises to be more of the same. We are fortunate to have all these new and transferring Brothers come to us. It's a lot of work but it is definitely worth the effort. Thank you all, with your participation, you have made this a better Lodge.

Sept 2, is District School held at John Darling. Beginning at 6pm with cigars, and 7pm for the beginning of class, lasting 1 hour. Help the Lodge out by being there. Don't forget our Worshipful Masters Hawaiian shirt day on our 2nd Communications of the month, Sept. 17th. If it is anything like our Bermuda Shorts night of August, we will have a great time. Our Fish Fry will be on Friday the 18th. We have done very well in sales and our next Fish Fry shouldn't be any different. On Saturday, September 19th, we are having our Annual Farmer's Degree. Come, and join the fun and support our newly raised Master Masons. Friday, Sept. 25 is Master's and Warden's. Come and join us in a great day of Fellowship with other Lodges, as we seek better ways of doing things. Sept. 26th, will be Zone School at Scottish Rite Building.

From the South ... R.:W.: Sam Pesola, J. W.

My Brothers, the year is flying by. Those of you who haven't been to Lodge for a while are missing out on some truly wonderful meals, fun, fellowship as well as Masonic knowledge.

On a sad note, Brother Chris Tremble is moving out of the immediate area. Brother Chris is one of the most dedicated Masons I know; his work in the kitchen has allowed us to provide quality meals to the Craft. His work as a Catechism instructor has been invaluable to both his students and the Lodge. We'll miss you Brother Chris!

Fortunately, for those of us who enjoy good food, Brother Sam Itani, a professional chef, has picked up the reins and is preparing truly memorable meals for the Craft. There are, as well, many brothers who have stepped up to assist in the kitchen with our normal dinners, as well as our monthly fish fry. Please come out and enjoy our efforts. The fish fry is the third Friday of each month.

In closing Brothers, remember that YOU are someone's impression of Masonry. Make every effort to live your life as tribute to your God, your Country and yourself. Imitate the life of that celebrated artist, the widow's son; and "be ye all of good cheer."



Please remember your lodge boosters and thank them.

R.: W.: Ronald E. Stanley R.: W.: Donald R. Bell Mark L. Lager
 Daniel Allen Brad Sollberqer James F. Allison Ernest P. Sidlow

2015 Lodge Officers

Worshipful Master Charles C. Osborne otherchuckosborne@gmail.com 813-220-6126	Senior Warden Danny Valdez Dannyv842@hotmail.com 813-833-7339	Junior Warden R.:W.: Charles (Sam) Pesola sampes@verizon.net 813-293-3581	Treasurer W.: David B. Lambert, Sr. Dlambert7907@gmail.com 813-996-4001	Secretary R.:W.: Donald R. Bell donaldbell@verizon.net 813-932-5832
Senior Deacon W.: Jeffrey T. Sklet jtsklet@yahoo.com 813-482-5236	Junior Deacon Br. Marty Grief martin@privacypartners.com 813-334-3867	Senior Steward Br. Chris Tremble Brotherchristremble@gmail.com 813-469-7810	Junior Steward Br. Brian Rubright briansu@hotmail.com	Chaplain Br. Frank E. Penny GEPFEP@aol.com 813-830-3436
Tyler Br. Brian P. Stricker bpstricker@gmail.com 813-833-9630	Marshall W.: David B. Lambert, II	Historian W.: Ron Speaks poppyspeaks@msn.com 813-365-0101	Musician Br. John S. Nagy John2013@coach.net 813-949-0718	

Passed to the degree of Fellowcraft.

August 18th at J. F. Swartsel Lodge

R.:W.: Charles (Sam) Pesola sitting in the East

R.: W.: Ron Lambert – Lecturer

W.: Doyle Mullins – gave the charge

Brothers Muth and Brems

