

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



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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

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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 – Leviticus– by Clarence H. Cohen, PGM of Georgia

Leviticus is the third book of the five books of Moses, and most authorities attribute its authorship to him.

It is probably a strange book for these modern days, for it is largely devoted to detached rules about sacrifice. It contains detailed instructions concerning worship in the Tabernacle. It could be called a reference or law book for the priests and Levites. These rules grew out of ceremonies current in Egypt and the countries that the Israelites came in contact with in their wanderings. It was a common practice among the idol worshippers to offer food and drink to their deities to appease them. Here an attempt is made to change the pagan practices and by ritualistic observances and sacrifices to win God's forgiveness.

The book is divided into five main parts. Chapters 1 to 7 contain the laws for different kinds of sacrifice. There was some improvement in the Hebrew code over other primitive practice in that no image was allowed and the sacrifice was made to one unseen God.

In chapters 8 to 10 the requirements for worship on the part of both priests and people are stated. The word "Holiness" is used more than eight times in reference to the Tabernacle, its furnishings, the offerings, the Priest and the people. Leviticus describes the ceremonial offerings and moral holiness as that which separates man from sinful and the common use of those things dedicated to God.

Chapters 11 to 22 are devoted to ritual and regulations concerning sex, childbirth, foods, disease, and the care of those who die. The term "unclean" as used in Leviticus refers to any departure from prescribed practice. The word "kosher" you hear so much of today merely means clean or in accordance with prescribed practice. Morality is based on holiness. "You shall love your neighbor as yourself" (19:18).

Chapters 23 to 26 consider the times for worship. The key to this is the number seven, which denotes perfection or completeness. The Sabbath was the seventh day of the week. The feast of Passover was used as the date to determine other great feasts of the year. The feast of weeks was observed seven weeks after Passover. The feast of Trumpeters was observed seven months later. After seven years the Sabbatical year was observed and after "seven weeks of years" the year of Jubilees. At these stated times, pledges of loyalty were made to God in order to receive God's promise and blessing.

Chapters 24 to 27 contain statements concerning the value of tithes, their payment with money, warnings against breaking the covenant vows, and the rewards attendant upon strict observance of "The Holiness Code".

The book of Leviticus should be of interest to Masons. Now that you have been given the "law" let each brother look into the mirror of his conscience and ask what sacrifices (spiritual or material) he has laid upon the Altar of Masonry; or have you declared this a Sabbatical time in Masonry for yourself?

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



Comments from the Craft



The look and feel of the Trestleboard is great - - thank you and keep up the good work.

I appreciate and look forward to reading all of the articles here, especially from the officers.

This is a great way to keep in touch with my Masonry since I am unable to be at lodge often enough.

Thank you for your contribution to our lodge in particular and to Masonry in general. Good job.

Each and every one of you makes me proud to be a Mason! Our Lodge is in good hands and has a most promising future. Keep doing your good work.

From the desk of the editor

Firstly, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you, the craft, as the members of this lodge for your great and thoughtful comments regarding your Trestleboard. It gives me a warm and fuzzy feeling to know that my hard work is so appreciated. As far as having a desire but not the transportation to attend any of our meetings - - please remember that all you need to do is ask and transportation can and will be provided. Part of our obligation guarantees that we will H A A A W D B. Just call your Secretary and he will make sure that transportation is provided for you.

We have instituted a new idea for your Family Night fun. Read more about it in the Senior Warden's column. There is a good probability that this idea will become so well accepted that other lodges will want to try the same thing. That would be a good thing and your Worshipful Master Danny Valdez will go down in Masonic history as the "Visionary".

Chair Chatter

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

My Brothers, as you probably know the left part of our front door was shattered by accident. I would like to thank Brother Adam Feldman for coming forward to help with the repair of this.

On Wednesday, September 28th, John Darling Lodge will have their District Deputy Grand Masters Official Visit. I would like to have a good showing of our Brothers at that meeting in support of our plural brothers; Worshipful Master Ken Tutor and brother Senior Warden Tony Hedayat. These Brothers are always here for us and we should be there for them. This will be an official Lodge visit for which we receive official credit from the Grand Lodge.

Brothers - school has again started so let's be careful out there. There is always a lot of confusion on the first week or so and these children are excited, scared and sometimes missing their mommies, please use extreme care and a lot of consideration along with patience.

To the new Master Masons, your suggestions are always welcomed. I would like to make the Lodge a pleasant experience for you, join in on the different functions. Express your desires to be an officer of your Lodge or provide for expertise to areas of interest to you which will be beneficial to the Lodge. Thank you my Brothers.

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

As the Masonic year once again comes one month closer to the end, we have a few important dates to keep in mind. Examples would be our regular Fish Fry days, which have been going very well so far. Another is the quarterly Family Night which is coming up again this month. If you missed the last Family Night you really missed the introduction of a new type of Family Night at your lodge. Worshipful Graff has been made the Chairman of the newly formed "Entertainment Committee". He, along with several other committee men (brothers) are now providing entertainment for those in attendance. Remember; this is Family Night - - not a lodge meeting. We will provide the basic menu and we hope that you will bring other foods to share. As this idea matures I am sure the attendance will improve drastically. This event is open to anyone.

From the Junior Warden's station: Brother Marty Grief

My Brothers, the lodge is looking great! Thanks to all the hard efforts of our Worshipful Master and the Brothers who supported him, the lodge looks like a new building. Between the power washing, the new roof, the new window tinting and our cleaned up secretary and treasurer's office, the building barely looks the same. Thank you all for your support!

As you know, fixing up the lodge costs money. So I'm pleased to report that our raffle to win \$1,000 in restaurant gift cards was a great success. With your help the lodge raised almost \$4,400 in ticket sales. This will certainly help replenish our building fund and help pay for all the improvements that we've been undertaking.

Our next major fund raising activity will be Baking on the Square. Last year this was a great program which was a lot of fun and generated a nice income for the lodge. Look for details in our next Trestle Board.

Back by popular demand, on September 20th, we are having our monthly meal at Anthony's Coal Fired Pizza at 13020 North Dale Mabry Highway, Tampa, FL 33618. Our last dinner there was a success with approximately 75 Masons who brought their friends and family. While you can go for lunch or dinner, most of the Masons will be there around 7:00 if you would like to join in as part of the group. So, bring your friends, bring your family and expect to have a good time. Just tell your server that you are there in support of J.F. Swartsel Lodge and 20% of your food bill will be donated back to the lodge.

While most of my columns tend to discuss fund raising activities, I would be remiss if I did not mention Masonic Education. On the first Wednesday of every month there is a District School of Instruction at John Darling Lodge. When was the last time you went or participated in any type of Masonic Education? Remember part of being a Mason is in becoming a better man. And learning is certainly a path to enlightenment and becoming a better man. Hope to see you at one of the Masonic Education events soon. 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.

From the Secretary's chair: W:. David Lambert, Sr.

At the 186th Annual Grand Communication of The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free & Accepted Masons of Florida, a new software application, *Circumscribe*, was presented and implemented during this Masonic year. The Lodge membership data migration is now complete, and you now have access to the new system. It is important for you to login as soon as possible, review your profile, make any appropriate changes to your contact information, and upload a current picture for your new permanent ID card.

To login to Circumscribe, simply follow these instructions:

- Open your internet browser
NOTE: be sure to enable cookies, and disable private browsing
- Navigate to: **<https://glfl.circumscribe.net>**
- Enter your initial Username:
"FL" + "Your Grand Lodge Number" + "@changeyouremail.info"
(Example: FL1234567@changeyouremail.info)
NOTE: your Grand Lodge Number is printed on the top / middle of your current Dues card.
- Enter your temporary Password:
"FL" + "Your Grand Lodge"
(Example: FL1234567)
- You will be immediately prompted to change both your username and password
 - Your NEW username can be any email address that you frequently use, or have regularly access to.
 - Your NEW password must contain 8 characters and 1 number, and you must enter it twice.
- Upon successfully entering both, you will be required to logout, and then log back in with your new credentials.
- Once you have successfully logged back in, navigate to your Masonic profile by selecting **Profile** from the menu items on the left side of the screen. Review your profile and make any appropriate changes to your contact information, and upload a current picture for your new permanent ID card. **You must upload your picture within 60 calendar days of your Lodge's On-board date. After 60 days, you will be sent a dues card without your picture, and replacement cards are \$5.00 each.** When uploading your picture, use as high a resolution as possible, and your face should be positioned to take up as much of the photo square as possible. You should avoid hats, sunglasses, other individuals or animals in the picture.
- Select 'Save Profile' to complete the process.

Online help is always available at **<http://help.circumscribe.net>**, or by clicking the question mark icon on the top right of the Circumscribe system once you are logged in. For additional support, please contact me at the Lodge. I thank you for your participation and feedback, and wish you all a prosperous Masonic year.

A MASONIC CREED

As an expression of the simplest form of the faith of Masonry, not exhaustive, but incontrovertible and suggestive, the following is:
THE MASONIC BELIEF

There is one God, the Father of all men. The Holy Bible is the Great Light in Masonry, and the Rule and Guide for faith and practice. Man is immortal. Character determines destiny. Love of man is, next to love of God, and man's first duty. Prayer, communion of man with God, is helpful.

Recognizing the impossibility of confining the teaching of Masonry to any fixed forms of expression, yet acknowledging the value of authoritative statements of fundamental principles, the following is proclaimed as

THE MASONIC TEACHING

Masonry teaches man to practice charity and benevolence, to protect chastity, to respect the ties of blood and friendship, to adopt the principles and revere the ordinances of religion, to assist the feeble, guide the blind, raise up the downtrodden, shelter the orphan, guard the altar, support the Government, inculcate morality, promote learning, love man, fear God, implore His mercy and hope for happiness. This is from the Bible in Masonry!

2016 Lodge Officers

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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



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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