

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



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

**The third Friday of EACH month is reserved for a public Fish Fry at the lodge.**

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

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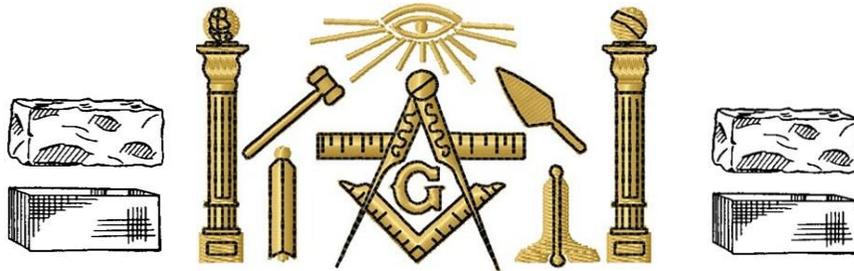
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## IN THIS ISSUE YOU WILL FIND....

**Masonic Education, Chair Chatter, Lodge News & Events, Calendar of Important Events, Lodge Officers, Sponsors and Website Information**

### Masonic Education Submitted by W.: Stuart Graff



Judges, From The Books of The Book by Clarence H. Cohen, P. G. M.

Judges is the title given to the seventh book of the Old Testament. It contains the history of those non-regal rulers who governed the Hebrews from the time of Joshua to the time of Eli, and whose functions in time of peace consisted chiefly in the administration of justice, though they often led the people in wars against their enemies.

The time of this book is set at about 1250 B.C. The period of the Judges ruling in Israel was about 410 years. It seems that many of the peoples and the same land is being fought over today.

During this period Israel had no national leader such as Moses or Joshua. Every tribe fended for itself. The exploits of these Judges makes interesting reading.

The book of Judges is mainly the recital of heroic deeds of these judges; especially Gideon, Jephthah and Samson. They were the product of the rough and primitive time in which they lived. One of the greatest judges was a woman by the name of Deborah. Her war song is one of the best known pieces of literature of the Old Testament. (See chapter 5, Judges) The story of Jephthah is probably the most heartbreaking in the Old Testament. It certainly should teach us not to make rash

statements. The story is of interest to members of the Eastern Star. The story of Samson is well known to every Sunday school boy, who has imagined himself to grow up to be as strong and mighty as Samson. Gideon was probably one of the world's shrewdest military tacticians. Chapters 7 and 8 tell of his mighty exploits. I wonder if the North Koreans might not have studied Gideon's technique! To all Masons, I especially invite your attention to Chapter 12.

The stories in Judges are, on the whole, quite independent of one another and are based in a large measure on fragments of tribal tradition and scattered bits of both folklore and history.

Judges can be divided into three parts. The first part embraces the history of the Elders, who ruled the Israelites after the death of Joshua. The second part contains the history of the Judges from the Othneil to Eli; and the third section narrates several memorable actions performed not long after the death of Joshua. I assume this is placed at the end of the book so that it might not interrupt the thread of the narrative.

This book testifies to the faithfulness of God in raising up leaders for His people who would guide them from pagan worship to fidelity to Him. Sin, for when the tribes forgot God, inevitably brought disaster. Yet God was not vindictive for He heard their cry in a time of need and raised a deliverer.

The 25<sup>th</sup> verse of the 21<sup>st</sup> chapter of Judges reads as follows: "In those days there was no king in Israel: every man did that which was right in his own eyes."

This appears to be apropos of conditions that exist in our beloved country today. We are without a "king". From what is happening in our streets and on our college campuses "every man is doing what is right in his own eyes."

Freemasonry teaches its advocates to be quiet and peaceful subjects, true to our government and just to our country. We are not to countenance disloyalty and rebellion.

Where is the sense of responsibility of the four million Masons in this country? Have we, like the Israelites in the book of Judges, lapsed into the idolatry of the pagan culture which is attempting to surround us? If so, we shall be swiftly punished.

Let us hope God will raise up a good Judge among us.

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## Chair Chatter

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

My Brothers; this in my last Trestle Board article as your Worshipful Master. Worshipful Master elect, R.: W.: Pesola will soon be installed as your 2017 Worshipful Master. His staff of elected officers have served the Craft very well and I have no doubt they will continue to do so. His appointed Officers were carefully selected by him and will also serve the Craft very well. Look to the East for wisdom and guidance from a very capable, learned and dedicate Mason. I have the privilege of serving as your 2017 Marshal and will do so to the best of my ability. I again want to thank the Officers of J.F. Swartsel Lodge No. 251 for the year 2016 on a job well done. May the Great Architect of the Universe Bless and Keep you all.

Fraternally yours,

Danilo O. Valdez; W.: M.: J. F. Swartsel Lodge No. 251 F & AM (THE BEST LODGE IN MASONRY)

**A note from the editor:** My brothers, please accept my apologies for the brevity of this month's Trestleboard.

Due to the chaos of the holiday season (I know, it comes about every year) the majority of fact finding, lack of coordination as far as articles are concerned) and various other reasons; this month's Trestleboard is not as long as the usual.....however, it will get back to normal next month. I would also like to take this opportunity to let everyone know that I will be sitting in the East again this year for the Rusty Nail Degree on Saturday, February 25<sup>th</sup> at the Masonic Park and Youth Camp in Wimauma. It is a beautiful and meaningful ceremony. More details will follow next month.

Brother Milton Godwin

Receiving his 50 year Masonic service pin and certificate

Presented by W. M.: Danny Valdez at our family night Dec. 29<sup>th</sup>, 2016



And being "pinned" by his lovely wife "Mrs. G."



## 2016 Lodge Officers

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