

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 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



THE FIRST BOOK OF SAMUEL

In Jewish scripture the two books of Samuel form but one, termed in Hebrew the Book of Samuel. In the Septuagint version, they are called the first and second book of Kings or of the Kingdoms. In the vulgate, they are designated as the first and second books of Kings, and by Jerome, they are termed the Books of the Kingdoms, as being two of the four books in which the history of the kings of Judah and Israel are related.

The opinion of the Talmudist is that the first twenty-four chapters of the First Book of Samuel were written by the Prophet whose name they bear, and that the remainder of the book, together with the whole of the second book, was written by the Prophets Gad and Nathan.

The First Book of Samuel contains the history of the synagogue, from the birth of Samuel, during the judgeship of Eli, to the death of Saul, the first King of Israel – a period of about eighty years.

Samuel, like Moses, was a prophet and a political leader. He was strong enough to unite the whole nation. He was important in Israel's history primarily as a transitional figure. It was he who anointed Israel's first king; Saul.

After chapter eight, the remainder of the book tells the story of Saul's reign over Israel. Saul's jealousy of David, is described in the last fourteen chapters.

In chapter twenty eight we find Saul demented and the story of his consultation with the Witch of Endor should be read in the light of legend rather than history.

The three main characters in the First Book of Samuel are Samuel, the Kingmaker (1-12), **Saul, Israel's first King** (13-31); and David the noble ruler (1-16).

These great men are portrayed as the spokesmen of God.

As in the days of Samuel, the multitude still cries: "Give us a King." Let them read first Samuel well. People who refuse to think for themselves and surrender their rights to some rulers lose their freedom. Masons of today should remember that those Masons that were willing to sacrifice "their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honor" were willing to fight for God and country.



Your Catechism Instructors for the three symbolic degrees in freemasonry are:
W.: Stuart J. Graff, W.: David Lambert Sr., W.: Jeff Sklet, W.: Jerry M. Snell and Brother Sam McPherson

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

Comments from the craft

Would you please remind us again about the Rusty Nail Degree? I have heard that it is not really a Masonic degree.

Depending on how you think of it you are probably correct. Here is the beginning of the presentation:

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The order of the Rusty Nail is a short program for use in a tyled lodge of Master Masons. It is designed to refresh the memories of brethren holding a valid dues card who are not regular in their lodge attendance. The lodge will not open in regular form but will be tyled as normal. The Order of The Rusty Nail refreshes the memory regarding the steps, passwords and signs of the three degrees of Freemasonry. It touches on lodge customs and reviews the mysteries and legends of Freemasonry as taught in the ritual. It is a tool designed to encourage regular attendance at lodge meetings and bringing a non-attending brother into the lodge and making him feel at ease with what may be forgotten ritual.

Chair Chatter

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

I will start by saying how good and pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity, our visit to Trilby Lodge No.141 on Thursday, February 16th was a lot of fun and fellowship. The meal was excellent and a great Thank you goes out to R.:W.: Stanley and the Brothers of Trilby Lodge for not only the meal but making all of us feel at home. I hope we continue to visit our Brothers and enjoy the fun and fellowship. Also Brothers Circumscribe is up and running, now you can login to your account and look at your Masonic history, manage your profile and pay your dues. If you need any help please get in touch with me and I will help you with it. My contact number is (813) 996-4001 and my Email address is (dlambert7907@gmail.com).

Calendar of Important Lodge Dates, **March 2017**

1st 7:00 PM - District School of Instruction @ John Darling 154.

2nd Stated Communication of Swartsel Lodge – Dinner @ 6:30 PM, Lodge Opens at 7:30 PM.

4th Order of the Eastern Star No. 209 Installation.

6th 7:30 PM Friendship Chapter 209 OES, Stated Meeting.

7th 6:30 PM Degree Practice @ Swartsel.

10th Masonic Park Board meeting @ Tampa 240.

14th 6:30 PM Degree Practice @ Swartsel.

16th Stated Communication of Swartsel Lodge – Dinner @ 6:30 PM, Lodge Opens at 7:30 PM.

17th Third Friday FULL Menu Fish Fry at J.F. Swartsel Lodge – Serving from 5 PM until 8 PM.

17th Trestleboard Articles due to Worshipful Graff.

18th 9: AM – 3: PM Pilgrimage Day at the Masonic Home / Car show / Chili Cook off.

19th 11: AM Masonic Home Board Meeting, Church @ 10: AM

20th 7:30 PM Friendship Chapter 209 OES, Stated Meeting.

21st 6:30 PM Degree Practice @ Swartsel.

24th 6:30 PM – Master’s & Wardens meeting at Egypt Temple, Monthly meeting of Memorial Lodge No.23 – following the M & W meeting

25th 9: AM – Noon / Zone 6 School of Instruction @ John Darling No. 154.

28th 6:30 PM Degree Practice @ Swartsel

30th 7:00 PM Family Night @ J.F. Swartsel No.254

From the East: R.:W.: Charles “Sam” Pesola

The following is a list of Lodge Committees and their members (Digest of Masonic Law Chapter 24 § 10.01 through 10.12 inclusive.) If you do not find your name on the committee list, and/ or would like to be on a specific committee, please let me know and I’ll add you to the committee of your choice, if I’m able.

Finance Committee:

Duties are to examine and report on matters concerning the finances of the Lodge; examine , or cause to be examined, all the books, accounts, vouchers and financial records of the Secretary and Treasurer, and report to the Lodge in writing within 30 days after the close of the Masonic year.

Chairman: Senior Warden – Marty Greif

Members: W.: Danilo Valdez, John Elliott, W.: Jerry Snell, Jack Scherer, Kevin Duhaime

Vigilance Committee:

Duties are to “exercise a watchful superintendence over the moral conduct of the Craft at all times except during the working hours of the Lodge...”

Chairman: Senior Warden – Marty Greif

Members: Frank Penny, Craig Muth

Petitions Committee:

Duties are to interview each petitioner for the degrees and determine that the petition, and any supplemental paperwork, is properly executed and report the same to the Worshipful Master; after which the petition will follow its usual course.

Chairman: W.: David Lambert

Members: W.: Stu Graff, Sam McPherson, Tom Sacher-Brown, W.: Jeff Sklet, Lamont Richardson, Tom Beukelaer

Investigations Committee:

Duties are to, individually, carefully examine and report, in writing, upon the suitability and worthiness of a candidate wishing to join, or affiliate, with the Lodge.

Chairman: Senior Warden – Marty Greif

Members: All members of the Lodge

Education Committee:

Duties are to see to the education of the Lodge as well as assisting, when possible, public education.

Chairman: Worshipful Master – Sam Pesola

Members: Senior Warden – Marty Greif, Junior Warden – Jerry Snell

Board of Relief:

Duties are to draw upon the Charity Fund as necessity and propriety may dictate. The Board will make quarterly reports of disbursements, omitting the name of recipients, unless the recipient is the object of continued charity.

Chairman: Worshipful Master – Sam Pesola

Members: Senior Warden – Marty Greif, Junior Warden, - Jerry Snell

Committee on Charity:

Duties are to oversee charitable activities of the Lodge and report to the Board of Relief any findings of distress. Identify public charitable institutions that may need assistance.

Chairman: W.: Chuck Osborne

Members: W.: Danilo Valdez, W.: Jeff Sklet, W.: Jerry Snell, Wissam Itani

Lodge Property Committee:

Duties are to oversee Lodge property and make recommendations for the improvement of the same; arrange schedules of Lodge rentals as directed by the Secretary.

Chairman: W.: Danilo Valdez

Members: W.: Don Bell, Adam Feldman, Sam McPherson, Craig Muth, Ray Ciunci

Entertainment Committee:

Duties are to see that the Craft is suitably entertained while at refreshment. Arrange for guest speakers, family nights and special Lodge functions. Superintend the Fish Fry and any other functions the Lodge may decide to hold.

Chairman: W.: Stu Graff

Members: W.: Danilo Valdez, Tom Sacher-Brown, Kevin Duhaime, Jack Scherer, Tom Beukelaer
Don Carlyle, Jeff Sklet

From the West: Brother Martin A. Greif

What is our real obligation? At our alter we undertook several of them to help each other, not cheat anyone, watch out for each other's families and so on. However, I would propose that our real obligation is to ourselves, to be better men. All the obligations we undertook are just methods to be better.

For me, the most important obligation is to look inward; to improve my spiritual temple. By working hard to become a better man, it becomes very easy to be a good Mason.

While no man is perfect, and I am as far from perfect as you can be, I've found a joy in being your Brother and in lending a helping hand whenever I can. As I think about our Brothers in the lodge, I see that same joy in helping one and other. It makes me proud to be your Brother.

As we move into March this year, let me know any suggestions on how to help bring joy to other Brothers who may not be as fortunate as we are.

From the South: W.: Jerry M. Snell

I first want to congratulate Brothers Bush and Bates on completing their Master Mason catechism and becoming proficient.

As you all know we traveled to Trilby Lodge 141 Thursday night to enjoy food and fellowship with our Brothers, I was glad to see the turn out from our lodge eighteen Brothers, and to let you know that they plan to reciprocate In April. Brothers as you know, we have a fish fry the third Friday of every month as a fund raiser for our lodge. We not only need your support of enjoying great food and fellowship, but we need you support in cooking, cleaning and serving. A two or three hour shift would be sufficient and greatly appreciated.

From the Editor

I just want to take this opportunity to thank the officers and members of Trilby Lodge NO. 141 for welcoming the 18 traveling brothers from J. F. Swartsel Lodge to their Stated Communication February 16th. The food was great and the fellowship was top notch. This is the true meaning of Brotherly Love and affection. It is also a terrific way to communicate with other brothers outside your own lodge.



A second message to the craft would be in the form of a reminder that we have a box at the entranceway to collect eyeglasses. The glasses can be sunglasses, prescription glasses or just regular glasses. They can be for a man, woman or child. This is something that was started last year with the idea of making a donation to the Masonic Home. It would really be nice if we could have enough to make that donation this year. Please help with whatever you can. As usual, this is not a "strictly Masons only" project. It is OK to ask for help!

2017 Lodge Officers



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