

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



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Our stated Communications are: 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 fifth Thursday night of the month is reserved for family night at the lodge - open to the public.

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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 sublime degree of Master Mason from Introduction to Freemasonry by Cael H. Claudy

Similarities exist in all the degrees of Ancient Craft Masonry. Each has an entry, a reception, a circumambulation, an obligation, and a bringing to light. Each discovers certain symbols of the initiate and, in demonstration and in lecture, gives him the key by way he may unlock the door behind which he will find their meaning.

In its second section the sublime degree departs utterly from the familiar. Instead of being concerned with moral principles and exhortations, as in the first degree, or with architecture and learning, as in the second, it answers the cry of Job, "If a man die, will he live again?"

The degree delves into the deepest recesses of a man's nature. While it leads the initiate into the Sanctum Sanctorum of the Temple, it probes into the Holy of Holies if his heart.

As a whole the degree is symbolical of that old age by the wisdom of which "We may enjoy the happy relection consequent on a well-spent life, and die in the hope of a glorious immortality."

But it is much more than that. It is at once the yearning question of man throughout all ages and its answer. It teaches no creed, no dogma, no religion; only that there *is* a hope of immortality; there *is* a Great Architect by whose mercy we may live again; leaving to each brother his choice of interpretation by which he may read the Great Beyond.

It teaches of the power – and the powerlessness – of evil. For those that are happy in a belief of the resurrection of the physical body, the Sublime Degree has comfort. For those whose hope is in the raising only of that spiritual body of which Paul taught, the degree assures of all the longing heart can wish.

When the lesson of the greatest hope and the dearest wish of all mankind is made manifest, the Sublime Degree turns to *this* life and *this* brotherhood, and in the symbolism of the Lion, the exposition of the five points of Fellowship, the means by which a Mason may claim all that a man may from his brother, and the Word, ties together the Hiram Legend and daily living in a manner which no thoughtful man may see and hear without a thrill; a way at once awe-inspiring and heartening, terrible but beautiful, sternly uncompromising yet strangely comforting.

It is because the degree is all this - and more, much more, which cannot be put into words – that it means so much to those of whom it becomes a part. The ceremony is not of the earth, earthy, but of that land of the inner life, that home of the spirit where each man thinks the secret thoughts he tells never – never.

Your Catechism Instructors for the three symbolic degrees in freemasonry are:

W.: Stuart J. Graff, W.: David B. 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

From the desk of your Editor

My brothers; at our last meeting the subject of a Wild Game supper was brought up and a hand vote was taken. The vote was overwhelmingly in favor of it and Worshipful Snell has agreed to have this for us on the second meeting (third Thursday) in May. He does, however, need some help - not with the preparation - but with what cut of meat and how the majority of brethren would like it cooked. Whatever your preference is (ie. roast, grilled, fried, in a stew or whatever) PLEASE let either him or myself know so he can do a good job of pleasing us with a terrific meal. This is of special interest to me because I am providing the Venison.

A very special **thank you** goes out to Brother Gary Mabry and his wife for a donation to the "eyeglass donation fund" by nearly doubling the numbers of eyeglasses we are planning to donate. This will take place as soon as W.: Pesola can set it up.

Chair Chatter

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

We are planning on sending the Trestleboard out next year by email. This will save the Lodge a substantial amount of money and work, both of which are needed elsewhere. PLEASE send me your e-mail address if I don't already have it. This will ensure that you continue to receive your copy.

Adoption of *Circumscribe* is off to a great start! Brothers have been accessing the online dashboard and uploading pictures for the new ID card. all members will receive a new dues card with or without a picture.

To login to *Circumscribe*, simply follow these instructions:

- Open your internet browser
- Navigate to: <https://qlfl.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 password must contain 8 characters and 1 number.
- 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 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.**
- Be sure to 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* dashboard once you are logged in. For additional support, please call me at [\(813\) 996-4001](tel:8139964001)

From the Worshipful Master’s station: W:.M.: R.: W:.. Sam Pesola

My brothers all: Firstly I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the brothers that are making the time and the trek to be at our lodge. Whether it be on a regular or irregular basis your attendance is noted and greatly appreciated. We are really coming alive (again) in the membership department. Our members are all progressing well in their advancement and we will soon have a larger than usual number of members sitting on the sidelines. We should be hearing a FC catechism return as well as a Master Mason catechism return on May 4th, along with a Master Mason degree with two brothers being raised on the 25th. This is in no small part due to your efforts in bringing new members into the fold as well as our great instructors putting forth the effort to advance them. Attendance has picked back up for our Fish Fry on the third Saturday of each month, and this is indeed a good thing to see. Once again, “Thank you, my brothers.”

From the Senior Warden’s station: Brother Marty Greif

According to the ancient laws of Freemasonry, every brother must attend his Lodge if he is within the length of his cable tow. The old writers define the length of a cable tow, which they sometimes called a cable's length, to be three miles. But the expression is symbolic and means the scope of a man's reasonable ability.

Brother George Washington was Master of his Lodge and President of the United States at the same time. I can’t even begin to imagine how short his cable tow was, but he accomplished both positions as the same time.

Having said that, I must acknowledge that I have been traveling and not in Lodge as much as I would like to have been. This will change for the rest of the year. If possible, and within the length of your cable tow, I’d really like to see you in Lodge too!

From the Junior Warden’s station: W:.. Jerry M. Snell, Jr.

My Brothers since we had a vote and more people have shown interest in having a wild game dinner we will hold the dinner on the third Thursday in Ma (our second meeting of the month. I would still like to know how you would prefer the meat to be prepared in a stew, roasted, grilled or fried. I will take a census at our next stated communication to let Stuart know what cuts of meat I will need and then prepare the meal. For those of you who don't like wild game I'll have a different type of entree.

Your 2017 Lodge Officers



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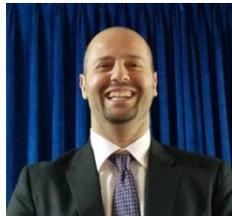
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A very special note to the brethren

Your lodge has been undergoing a specific as well as a positive change as of late. Our Worshipful Master has been opening the lodge in a different manner than has been done previously. This is a good sign of progression as we have been doing things a bit differently beginning the year before last. Masonry in Florida has definitely entered the new age, and even if you are personally against ANY Masonic changes, I think you will appreciate what we are doing. Firstly, at the beginning of a stated communication, and before the lodge is 'officially' opened, we are allowing all brethren - regardless of whether they are an EA, FC, or MM; along with any guests (ie. prospective members) and Eastern Star sisters to see a little bit of what goes on at our meetings. We are recognizing (and showing appreciation for) more than just Past Masters. This is a way to improve the relationships and harmony between the brethren of our lodge as well as any that visit us. If you would like to see this in action, please come to one of our Stated Communications and see for yourself. We will welcome you with a smile.



WHAT IS THE SYMBOLISM OF THE EAST, SOUTH, AND WEST GATES?

In the system of Freemasonry, the Temple of Solomon is represented as having a gate on the east, west, and south sides but none on the north. In reference to the historical Temple of Jerusalem, such a representation is wholly incorrect. In the walls of the building itself there were no places of entrance except the door of the porch, which gave admission to the house. But in the surrounding courts there were gates at all of the points of the compass. The Masonic idea of the Temple is, however, symbolic. The Temple is to the Speculative Mason only a symbol, not an historical building, and the gates are imaginary and symbolic also. They are, in the first place, symbols of the progress of the sun in its daily course, rising in the east, culminating to the meridian in the south; it is the object of the third degree to illustrate the symbols of the three stages of life; youth, manhood, and old age, or, more properly of birth, life, and death.

Submitted by W:. James Franklin "Robby" Robertson.