

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



Published monthly Volume MMXVII Issue No. 9 - September 2017 AD, 6017 AL

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

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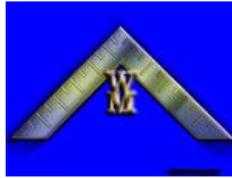
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## IN THIS ISSUE YOU WILL FIND....

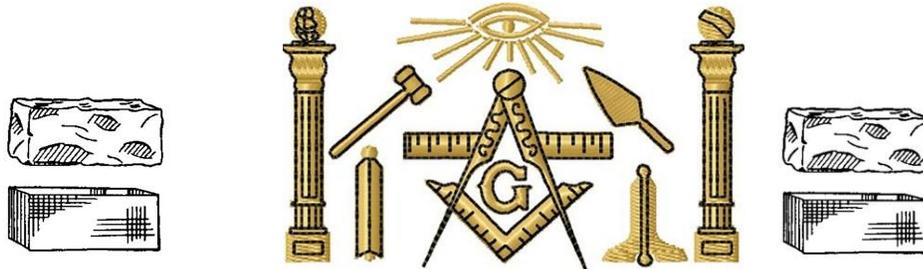
Masonic Education, Chair Chatter, Lodge News & Events, Calendar of Important Events, Lodge Officers, Sponsors and Website Information



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

W:. David B. Lambert Sr., W:. Stuart J. Graff, W:. Jerry M. Snell, Jr. and Brother Raymond J. Ciunci

## Masonic Education Submitted by W:. Stuart Graff



Contributed by Carl H. Claudy – Introduction to Freemasonry III – Master Mason

## The five points of Fellowship

Contributed by Carl H. Claudy – Introduction to Freemasonry III – Master Mason

The Five Points of Fellowship contain the essence of the doctrine of brotherhood. In the old constitutions as explained in the Halliwell or Regius manuscript are fifteen regulations called points. The old verse runs:

Fifteen artyculus there they soughten

And fifteen poynts there they wroughten.

Phillip's *New World of Words*, published in 1706, defines *poynt* as "a head or chief matter." An operative Mason "points" the wall by filling in the chinks left in laying bricks or stone, thus completing the structure.

Our Five Points of Fellowship are not allied to these, except as they are reflected in the word "points." We also find this relationship in the Perfect Points of Entrance, once called Principal Points.

A change was made in the symbolism of the Five Points in 1843, at the Baltimore Masonic Convention. Prior to that time the points were symbolized by hand, foot, knee, breast and back. After 1843 the hand was omitted and the mouth and ear tacked on as the fifth. Mackey believed that "The omission of the first and the insertion of the last are innovations and the enumeration given . . . is the old and genuine one which was originally taught in England by Preston and in this country by Webb".

Such curiosities of ritual changes, though interesting, are more for the antiquarian than the average lodge member. Most of us are more concerned with a practical explanation of the Five Points as they have been taught for nearly a hundred years.

A man goes on foot a short distance by preference; for a longer journey he boards a streetcar, rides in an automobile, engages passage on a railroad or courses through the air in a plane. Service to our brethren on foot does not imply any special virtue in that means of transportation. The word expresses the willingness of him who would serve to go at inconvenience and with difficulty, if necessary.

We assist our brethren when we can; also we serve them. The two terms are not interchangeable. We cannot assist a brother without serving, but we may serve him without assisting him. A wholly negative action may be a service; suppose we have a just claim against him and because of our fraternal relations we postpone pressing it. That is true "service," but not active assistance, such as we might render if we gave or loaned money.

How far should we go on foot to render service? Nothing is said in the ritual but the cable-tow is elsewhere used as a measure of length. Our own conception of brotherhood must say how far we travel to help our brother.

To petition the altar of The Great Architect of the Universe before engaging in any great or important undertaking is sound Masonic doctrine. We name the welfare of our brethren in our petitions because we love them; knowing our own need of their prayers, we realize their need of ours.

Anciently it was written *Laborare est orare* – to labor is to pray. If indeed labor is prayer, then to pay for our brethren we may labor for them, which at once clarifies the Second Point and makes a practical, everyday, do-it-now admonition. To work for our brother's welfare is the most brotherly manner to petition the Most High for him.

We often associate something less than proper with the idea of a secret. "He has a secret in his life"; "he is secretive"; "he says one thing, but in his secretive heart he thinks another" seem to connote some degree of guilt with what is secret. We keep our brother's secrets, guilty or innocent, but let us not assume that every secret is of a guilty variety. He may have a secret ambition, a secret joy, a secret hope – if he confides those to us, is our teaching merely to refuse to tell them or to *keep* them in the fine old sense that the word – to hold, to guard, to preserve? The Tiler stands watch and ward not to keep the door from others but to see that none uses it improperly. Thus are we to keep the secret joys and ambitions of our brother close in our hearts until he wants them known, but also, by sympathy and understanding, help him to maintain them.

"Do you stumble and fall, my brother? My hand is stretched out to prevent. Do you need aid? My hand is yours, use it. It is *your* hand for the time being. My strength is united to yours. You are not alone in your struggle – I stand with you on the Fourth of the Five points and as your need may be, so, *Deo volente*, will be my strength for you."

So must we speak when the need comes. It makes no difference in what way our brother stumbles; it may be mentally; it may be spiritually; it may be materially; it may be morally. No exceptions are noted in our teachings. We are not told to stretch forth the hand in aid *if*, and *perhaps*, and *but!* Not for us to judge, to condemn, to admonish . . . for us only to put forth our strength unto our falling brother at his need without question and without stint. For of such is the Kingdom of Brotherhood.

More sins are committed in the name of the Fifth of the Five Points than in the name of Liberty! Too often we offer counsel when it is not advice but help that is needed. Too often we admonish of motes within our brother's eye when our own vision is blinded by beams.

Reread here Amos vii, 7-8. "In the midst of my people Israel" – not in the far-away land; not across the river; not up on the mountain top, but in the midst of them, close to them, an intimate personal individual plumb line! So are we to admonish our brother; not by the plumb, the square, the level we are each taught to carry in *our* hearts, but by *his* plumb, *his* square, *his* level.

If he build true by his own tools, we have no right to judge him by ours. He may differ from us in opinion; he may be Republican where we are Democrat, Methodist where we are Baptist, Protectionist where we are Free Trade – we must not judge him by the plumb line of our own beliefs. When we see a brave man shrinking, a virtuous man abandoning himself to vice, a good man acting as a criminal – *then* is his building faulty judged by his own plumb line, and we may counsel and advise him to swing back and build again, true to his own working tools.

So considered, these teachings of Masonry, concerned wholly with the relations of brother to brother, become a broad and beautiful band of blue – the blue of the Blue Lodge – the True Blue of Brotherhood.

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



**NEWS OF GREAT IMPORTANCE:**



[www.jfswarsel251.org](http://www.jfswarsel251.org) **This is where you will find your future issues of the Trestleboard.** With the blessing of your Worshipful Master we have begun only posting the Trestleboard on our website. This will not be a trial. You will need to go to the website in order to get all of the current news and articles. It really isn't that difficult, but if you need **any** assistance in accomplishing this, please call either the Senior Warden, Secretary or Treasurer. We are each able to walk you through the necessary steps and will consider it an honor and a pleasure. Remember; our basic obligation is to help aid and assist those in need. We believe this will be a much better alternative to e-mailing it to you. There will be no more mailing this year. **Please remember the election for next year's officers. This will be in December.**

What is your Masonic ambition and how do you expect to accomplish it? Does your way represent the best way in Masonry? Will your way guarantee that you will keep your reputation as a Mason in tact? Is it in the best interest of the fraternity?

**Thoughts from the craft:**

It's always too soon to quit!



Do you believe that your obligations as a Mason are just a bunch of words or do you believe that they are a serious way for you to conduct your life?

**Rudyard Kipling and the craft (from the John Darling Trestleboard)**

Rudyard Kipling, the famous English author, was born in India of English parents. He was educated in England but returned to India in 1880 He was initiated in Hope and Perseverance Lodge #782, Lahore, Punjab, India in 1886. A special dispensation was necessary as he was only 20 years and 6 months at the time. when he took the degrees, there were four Holy Books upon the alter representing the dominant religions in the area. Upon his raising he was immediately elected Secretary, and he prepared the minutes of that meeting himself.

Many years later he wrote: "I was Secretary for some years of Hope and Perseverance Lodge #782, E.C., Lahore, which included brethren of at least four creeds. I was entered by a member of Brahmo Somaj, a Hindu; passed by a Mohammedin; and raised by an Englishman. Our Tyler was an Indian Jew. We met, of course, on the level, and the only difference anyone would notice was at the banquets, some of the Brethren, who were debarred from caste from eating food not ceremonially prepared, sat over empty plates."

## Chair Chatter

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

### Calendar of Important Lodge Dates: September 2017 AD, 6016 AL

I hope that you all have had a wonderful summer and vacation with your family and look forward to seeing you at the Lodge, as you can see by the calendar below we have a busy month in September so come out and enjoy the fun and fellowship.

- 6th** 6:30, Degree Practice @ Swartsel.  
7: PM, District Instruction @ John Darling 154.
- 7th** Stated Communication of Swartsel Lodge Dinner @ 6:30 PM, Lodge Opens at 7:30 PM.
- 8<sup>th</sup>** 7:00 PM, Masonic Park Meeting @ Tampa No. 240.
- 11<sup>th</sup>** 6:30 PM, OES Initiation @ Friendship No. 209.  
6:00 – 9: PM, Worshipful Master's Recognition Night @ Tampa Scottish Rite.
- 13th** 6:30, Degree Practice @ Swartsel.
- 15<sup>th</sup>** Third Friday FULL Menu Fish Fry at J.F. Swartsel Lodge – Serving from 5 - 8: PM.
- 17<sup>th</sup>** 7:00 PM, Masonic Park Meeting @ Tampa No. 240.
- 18<sup>th</sup>** 7:30 PM, Friendship No.209 Meeting
- 20<sup>th</sup>** 6:30, Degree Practice @ Swartsel.
- 21<sup>st</sup>** Stated Communication of Swartsel Lodge Dinner @ 6:30 PM, Lodge Opens at 7:30 PM.
- 22<sup>nd</sup>** 6:30, Masters & Wardens @ Egypt Shrine, Memorial Lodge to Follow.
- 23<sup>rd</sup>** 8:30 – Noon, Zone 4 Open Books (Tampa Scottish Rite).
- 27<sup>th</sup>** 6:30, Degree Practice @ Swartsel.
- 28<sup>th</sup>** 7:30 – 9: PM, Dining out with the Mason's Fund Raiser.

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

My brothers, at this time I would like to give a special thanks to brother Marty Greif for stepping up to lead the lodge while I was away for a month. Just as I returned, W.: Graff sat in the East for an EA degree which was excellently done. He had the assistance of RW Bell presenting the charge to brothers Krauer and Sayed. Probably one of the most memorable parts of the degree was when RW Chavez gave the EA lecture. W.: Graff also gave opening charge for the lodge from the East and RW Chavez gave the closing charge from the North. This was indeed a great welcome back.

From the Senior Warden's station:  Brother Marty Greif

How would you like to win a really cool AR Pistol from the Battle Rifle Company? This pistol is worth \$1,500. We're having a raffle with only 1,000 tickets at \$10.00 each. These are great odds for a truly unique prize.

The raffle tickets go on sale this month and the drawing will be on December 7<sup>th</sup> at the lodge. You need not be present to win. Of course, we always like seeing you at the lodge! The winner will be announced prior to our stated communication and you must be legally able to own this pistol to take possession. We'll be happy to help you with the paperwork.

Also this month, we're dining out again. On Thursday, September 28<sup>th</sup>, please join us at the Cuatro Restaurant at the TPC Tampa Bay. They are open from 7:30 AM until 9:00 PM. Come for breakfast, lunch or dinner; better yet, come for all three as a portion of the proceeds will be donated back to J.F. Swartsel Lodge.

As always, if you would like to socialize with your Brothers, the best time to have a meal will be dinner at 7:00 PM. This is when many of the Brothers will be there. Their address is: 5300 W Lutz Lake Fern Rd #4, Lutz, FL 33558. To see their menus, visit <http://cuatrotampa.com>.



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

My brothers, as you read this I just want you to know that even though I am not physically able to attend the lodge functions right now, and for the next little while, my heart and thoughts are still with you and our lodge. I have been in touch with several of our lodge members in order to keep abreast of what is happening. My congratulations go to Brother Marty Greif for filling in as WM during the absence of Sam Pesola and a hearty welcome back to our WM Sam Pesola. I know you had a great time while you were out West visiting. I also want to congratulate our new brothers. Thank you Worshipful Graff for being in the East to initiate Brothers Krauer and Sayed into our lodge.

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### Entered Apprentice Degree August 24<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at J. F. Swartsel

W.: Graff as the  
Worshipful Master  
during the Entered  
Apprentice Degree.



**Left:** The degree team.

**Right:** Brothers Kaleem Sayed, Saleem Sayed (Kaleem's father) W.: Graff and Brother Frank Krauer Jr.



# Your 2017 Lodge Officers



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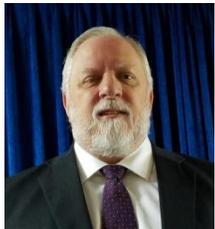
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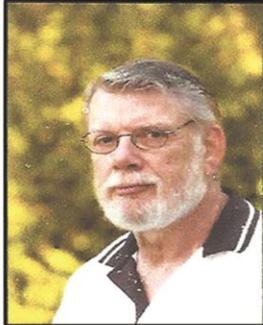
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