

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



Published monthly Volume MMXVII Issue No. 11- November 2017 AD, 6017 AL

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....

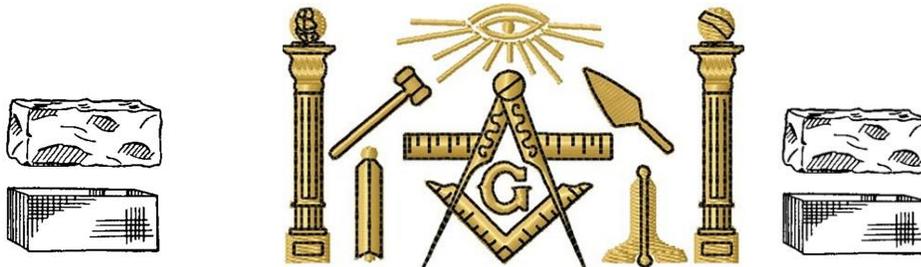
Masonic Education, Chair Chatter, Lodge News & Events, Calendar of Important Events, Lodge Officers, Sponsors and Website Information



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



Tapping the outside of Freemasonry, The statue was there all the time, and Friendship

Tapping the outside of Freemasonry: We, as Masons, speak proudly, and justifiably so, of the Great Teachings of our Fraternity. We make loudly applauded speeches (at least, we hope they will be loudly applauded) about the Sublime and Eternal Truths contained within our symbols. We sometimes speak of Freemasonry as a liberal education, which it is. We sometimes speak of Freemasonry as a religion, which it isn't. but, despite all the splendid things we say about Freemasonry, and justifiably so, isn't it true that very few of us gives ant considerable time to a study of the Lessons and Teachings which we vocally hold in such high esteem? Isn't it true that at every exemplification of a degree we see and hear many things that we but partially understand, yet our curiosity is not aroused to such an extent that we make any serious effort to discover the meanings of the things we do not comprehend.

I am reminded of the faithful railway employee, who spent fifty years of his life tapping the wheels of trains that stopped at a certain division point. The superintendent of the road had heard of the faithful employee. One day he got off his special train for the purpose of complimenting the old man. When the superintendent alighted, the old employee already was tapping the wheels. He went down one side and up the other. When the task had been completed, the superintendent stepped up and introduced himself. The conversation went: **"I understand you have been on this job for half a century and have never missed a day."** **"That's correct."** **"It must be a great deal of satisfaction to you to look back on 50 years of faithful service."** **"Yes Sir, It certainly is."** **"You must take a great deal of pride in the fact that for half a century, pleasant days and stormy days, in rain or shine, snow or sleet, you have played your part in looking after the safety of the passengers of this great railway."** **"Yes, sir, I'm pretty proud of my record."** **"Now, my good man, explain to me why you tap those wheels."** **"I'll be doggoned if I Know."**

Isn't our Masonry a great deal like the service of the faithful old railway railroad employee? Don't the greater numbers of us merely tap the outside, the surface, without having much idea of what it is all about. Aren't the greater number of us so lacking in curiosity that we don't try to find out why we do this, or why we do that, or what this means, or what that means? Let's develop a little curiosity.

The statue was there all the time: The story is told of the man who turned to a famous sculptor whose work he had been admiring and asked, "How do you take a rough chunk of stone and make of it such a beautiful statue?" a silly question, of course, but the answer of the sculptor is one to intrigue Masons: "There is really nothing to it. All I do is chisel away the stone I do not want and there is the statue. It was there all the time."

I imagine there has to be some 'occurring' with the sculptor who knocks away chunks of stone in order to uncover the beautiful statue, but isn't there a Masonic lesson in the story of the sculptor and statue? Don't we take men in the raw and knock off the rough parts to reveal the beauty within that was there all the time? Of course, with some persons we didn't knock off very much. Masonry doesn't take men for the purpose of giving them new souls. It doesn't want them unless under the rough exterior there is concealed a beauty of character that may be revealed through proper manipulation of our Working Tools, that may be developed through what Freemasonry has to offer.

Friendship: The cordiality exhibited here tonight reminds me of the wise king, growing old, who wished to determine which of his two sons was the more worthy to ascend the throne. He called them to him and informed them he would give them a year in which to prove their popularity that they would be provided with whatever funds they wished, and at the end of the year the more popular should be elected to rule.

Straightaway the elder son started squandering money lavishly upon those who believed (like some of today) that anything coming from the national treasury was free. The royal palace nightly was noisy with high revelry. Young men laughed heartily at the prince's wit, while others professed to be amazed that one so young could be so wise. The elder son appeared daily in public places to receive the adulation of the multitude whose money he was squandering.

Publicly the younger son appeared not to enter the contest for popularity. Apparently he went his way just as he had before. His demands upon the treasury were modest. He avoided the blaze of the palace lights under which the many joined in nightly orgies. He went quietly about as before endeavoring to adjust unfair taxes. Often he appeared in court to plead the cause of some tattered wretch. He mingled with the laborers upon public projects and listened to their complaints. He mingled with the merchants in the bazaars and heard their troubles. He mingled with subjects of the realm wherever they might be found, regardless of station. Unostentatiously he carried contributions to the unfortunate. Often he was at the bedside of the sick. He sought not the cheers of the multitude, but rather the gratitude of the poor which is something we hear about in Freemasonry.

At the end of the year the wise old king had the two princes arrested on a trumped up charge of treason to the throne. He had them incarcerated in a room that communicated with the royal audience chamber, so that, while restrained from entering, the princes might see and hear what happened there.

So soon as the arrests became known, hundreds came to plead for the younger prince, and to protest that one so kind and good could not be guilty of the charge laid against him, while none came except to condemn the elder prince who so lately had had the help of the many in spending their money.

The elder turned to the younger and asked: "How were you able, with no apparent effort, to gain so many friends who now come to plead for you, while I am condemned by those who so short a time ago were at my heels?"

The younger answered: "I did not try to make friends; I tried to be a friend."

Didn't he have something there? Isn't there a Masonic lesson of deep design in that little yarn? Friendship cannot be won by formula or some magical hocus-pocus. It can't be purchased by the yard over a counter. It is one of the few things that can't be taken from one worthy of it. It is one thing that mellows and improves with age. It is the one thing that every person, high or low, rich or poor, may possess in quantity. It is the one thing with which every person, regardless of worldly station, may lavishly endow whomsoever he will. It is the one thing that you may give and be richer for the giving. It is the one thing that follows us beyond the veil. Being a friend is Freemasonry fully developed.



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



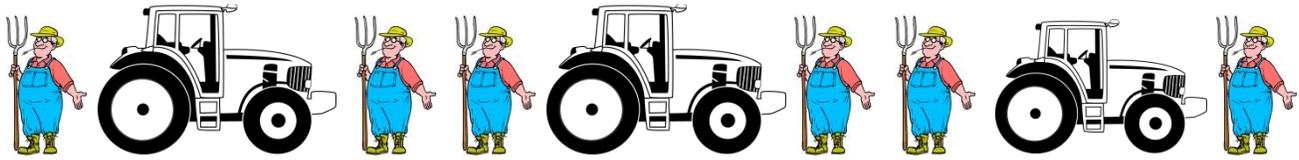
Brethren all Please let us not forget that we have a very important fund raiser going on. This is for the building fund. We have several important and expensive projects coming up and they are each necessary for the lodge to be able to continue. Whether you feel the need, desire or just the "want" for a (or another) gun; we are raffling off the chance to win one. There are only 1,000 total tickets available and they are only \$10.00 for each. Remember, each ticket purchased reflects another chance to win. Please consider this donation well. Many of the brothers have tickets available. Don't be bashful - - ask for one or more.



Thank you R:.W.: Charles C. (Chuck) Osborne for your official DDGM visit from you and your party.

October 5th, 2017





J. F. Swartzel's annual "Farmers Degree".

Thursday, October 12th, 2017



It was our distinct pleasure and honor to not only raise two of our own brothers, but as an extra added bonus, we were able to raise a brother from Tampa 240 Lodge.

These newly raised brothers are Dennis Morgan Martin and Shawn Michael Whited from J.F. Swartzel Lodge as well as Roy Albert Chattelle from Tampa 240. This was indeed a very special night for us as Worshipful Snell was back in the lodge and able to stay for the first part of the degree. The meal before the degree was exemplary and the camaraderie all through the night was filled with brotherly love and affection. Congratulations go not only to the newly raised Master Masons, but to Br. Adam Feldman for sitting in the East in both sections (this was a first for him). Another first was the MM charge excellently delivered by Bro. Wade Angel (his first time). We also had the lecture flawlessly delivered by RW Tony Chavez. The canvas crew was a rousing mixture of brothers from JF Swartzel, John Darling and Tampa 240. Brother Sam McPherson performed terrifically well as the Sr. Deacon and W.: Jim Blum was (as always) a great #12 Fellowcraft. All three lodges were well represented.

Your 2017 Lodge Officers



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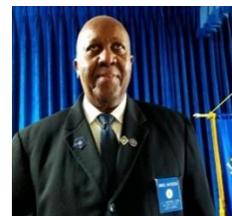
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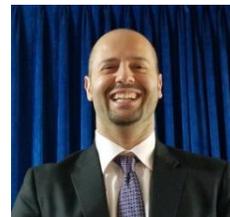
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Chair Chatter

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

The plumbing at our Lodge has been repaired and the upstairs carpet is next to be replaced. Friendship Chapter No. 209 Order of the Eastern Star is sharing in the cost of the 2 projects. Thank you Friendship Chapter for all of your support and help.

It is a blessing to have these dear Sisters supporting our Lodge.

Brothers please take the time to look at our Trestleboard online and especially the Lodge calendar.

Calendar of Important Lodge Dates: November 2017

- 1st** 6:30, Degree Practice @ Swartzel.
- 2nd** Stated Communication of Swartzel Lodge Dinner @ 6:30 PM, Lodge Opens at 7:30 PM.
- 8th** 6:30, Degree Practice @ Swartzel.
- 10th** 7: PM, Masonic Park Board Meeting @ Tampa No. 240.
- 13th** 7: PM, Worshipful & Masonic Youth Appreciation Night @ Scottish Rite.
- 15th** 6:30, Degree Practice @ Swartzel.
- 16th** Stated Communication of Swartzel Lodge Dinner @ 6:30 PM, Lodge Opens at 7:30 PM.
- 17th** Third Friday FULL Menu Fish Fry at J.F. Swartzel Lodge – Serving from 5 - 8: PM.
- 18th** Officer's Trestleboard Articles to Stuart Graff.
- 19th** 11: AM, Masonic Home Board Meeting.
- 20th** 7:30, Friendship No. 209 Meeting.
- 22nd** 6:30, Degree Practice @ Swartzel.
- 24th** 6:30, Masters & Wardens @ John Darling No.154, Memorial Lodge to Follow.
- 25th** 6:30 – Noon, Zone 4 open Books @ Tampa Scottish Rite.
- 29th** 6:30, Degree Practice @ Swartzel.
- 30th** 7: PM – 8:30 Family Night.

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

See the next page and know that I am particularly proud of accomplishing this worthwhile donation to the Masonic Home. This project was started in W. Valdez' year and has taken until now to come to a happy and full fruition. As the year winds down I look forward to helping our 2018 officers and continuing with our many degrees. Thank you, my brothers.

From the Senior Warden's station:  **Brother Marty Greif**

In October we raised Brothers Dennis Martin and Shawn Whited of J.F. Swartzel #251 and Brother Roy Chatelle of Tampa Lodge #240 to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason. Please join me in congratulating these newly raised Brothers.

As a Mason I've seen, and participated in, a number of Degrees; this was the most proficient degree I've seen to date. So what made that Degree so good: practice, practice and more practice. Practice started in August for this Degree and with weeks of practice under their belts, the Degree Team was outstanding. Well done Brothers!

For November, Happy Thanksgiving! And in between your holiday plans, we will continue with degree practice. Practices in November will be for an Entered Apprentice Degree.

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

My brothers all. As I enjoy my return to the lodge I find that I am returning at a very opportune time. Between resuming my cooking duties, my lodge and office responsibilities, the donation at the Masonic Home and the upcoming elections it just seems as if I had not taken any time away. I am glad to be back and look forward to more participation.

THANK YOU MEMBERS OF J. F. SWARTSEL LODGE



CHRISTMAS IN NOVEMBER AT THE MASONIC HOME

L. to R. W. Danilo O. Valdez, R. W. C. J. "Sam" Pesola, M. W. Richard Hoover, Mrs. Robin (Bobby) Hoover,
W. Stuart J. Graff and W. Jerry M. Snell, Jr.



Yes, brothers; your donation of a box full (to overflowing) of eyeglasses, cases and other eye paraphernalia was finally made and fully appreciated. The Masonic Home in St. Petersburg is (and was) the proud recipient. With the many different prescriptions that were donated, we have been assured that **ALL** of your donations will be wisely and thankfully used.

