

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....

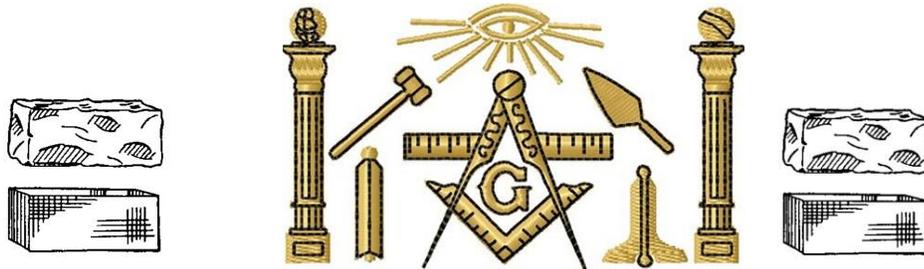
Masonic Education, Chair Chatter, Lodge News & Events, Calendar of Important Events, Lodge Officers, Sponsors and Website Information



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 book of constitutions, guarded by the Tilers sword

Before the door of all lodges stands a Tiler “with a drawn sword in his hand.”

Customarily it is a straight blade; such a shining shaft of steel as was carried by knights of olden time. According to Mackey it should have a snake-like shape in allusion to the “Flaming sword which was placed at the East of the Garden of Eden which turned every way to keep the tree of life.”

"The book of constitutions, guarded by the Tilers sword," is a comparatively modern symbol; its introduction has been traced to Webb, about 1800. It reminds us to be "ever watchful and guarded In our thoughts, words and actions, particularly when before the uninitiated; ever bearing in remembrance those truly Masonic virtues, silence and circumspection." But the Book of Constitutions is not a secret work. It was first ordered printed by the Mother Grand Lodge, and a few original copies as well as uncounted reprints of the Old Charges and the General Regulations of 1723 are in existence to be seen by Mason and profane alike. Obviously neither silence nor circumspection regarding this particular Masonic volume is necessary.

Some read into Webb's symbol the thought that it expresses the guardianship of constitutional government by the Masonic Fraternity but this seems rather far-fetched. It is easier to think that the Tiler's sword admonishes us to brook no changes in our ancient landmarks, to be guarded lest our words and actions bring the foundation book of Masonic law into disrepute before the enemies of Masonry, applying to the Book of Constitutions as well as to the secrets of Freemasonry "those truly Masonic virtues, silence and circumspection."

The second edition of Anderson's Constitutions sets forth that in 1731 the Grand Master, the Duke of Norfolk, presented to the Grand Lodge of England *the old trusty sword of Gustavus Adolphus, king of Sweden, that was worn next by his successor in war, the Brave Bernard, Duke of Saxe-Weimar, with both their names on the blade, which the Grand Master had ordered Brother George Moody (the king's sword cutler) to adorn richly with the arms of Norfolk in silver on the scabbard, in order to be the Grand Master's sword of start in the future.*

Early prints of lodge meetings on the Continent show the sword in use in the ceremonies; in this country the sword was never worn in the lodge room even during that era when a sword was as much a necessary article of a gentleman's dress as shoes or gloves. It was deemed then as now incompatible with meeting on the level. Either as a weapon which made its possessor stronger than the man who was unarmed, or as a badge of rank, the sword has no place in the lodge; in some jurisdictions it is presented to the Tiler in the lodge at opening. It is almost universal for the Tiler to request military men in uniform to leave their swords without the lodge before entering. This custom, comparatively little known in this country because few military men in times of peace go to lodge in full uniform, was often broken during the war when soldiers clanked up and down lodge rooms with their arms at their sides. But it is as Masonically inconsistent to wear a sword in lodge as to appear therein without an apron.

The Tiler's sword is wholly symbolic; whether it was always so is a matter lost in the mists which shroud ancient history.

The Tiler of the operative lodge may well have been armed with a sword for actual defense against the cowan, who wanted the word and the secret of the square without the necessity of serving a long period as an Apprentice and laboring to produce a satisfactory Master's piece.

The modern Tiler keeps off the cowan and the eavesdropper by the simple process of refusing to admit those he does not know; if they still desire to enter the tiled door, they must either be vouched for or request a committee. The Tyler's sword is but the emblem of his authority, as the gavel is the symbol of that possessed by the Master.

No symbol in Freemasonry but is less than the idea symbolized. The Volume of the Sacred Law, the letter "G," the square, the compasses, all signify ideas infinitely greater than paper and ink, a letter formed from electric lights or carved from wood, a working tool of metal. The Tiler's sword has a much greater significance than its use as a defense against invasion of privacy.

The eavesdropper from without is no longer feared. The real eavesdropper is the innocent profane who is told more than he should by the too enthusiastic Mason. Occasionally those not of the Fraternity deride it, knowing no better; the new brother ho rushes to the defense of an Order which needs none may easily do more harm than good. The "silence and circumspection" of the admonition of the Book of Constitutions guarded by the Tiler's sword applies here.

Constructively if not actively every profane who learns more than he should of esoteric work is an enemy.

Let us, then, all wear a Tiler's sword in our own hearts; let us set the seal of silence and circumspection upon our tongues; let us guard the West Gate from the cowan as loyally as the Tiler guards his door.

Only by such use of the sword do we carry out its symbolism. To Masons the sword is a symbol of power and authority, never of blood or wounds or battle or death. Only when thought of in this way is it consistent with the rest of the symbols of our gentle Craft, winning obedience to the mandates of the Tyler by brotherly love, an infinitely stronger power than strength of arm, point of weapon or bright and glittering steel.

It's nice to be important – but – it's more important to be nice.



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 **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 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.** It would also be in the best interest of the Fraternity **and** the lodge as well as yourself to remember that there is no longer any automatic advancement in the line of officers. All candidates for an elected office must have their names along with the office of their interest and their promise that if elected they will serve that office in to the Secretary before the gavel falls to call the meeting to order.

December 7th is not only election day at J. F. Swarsel Lodge – it is also Pearl Harbor Day.

Thank you for your service!!!!



Lowry Park Zoo
Presents
Howl - O - Ween Scream
Creatures of the night

October
6 – 28, 2017
Friday & Saturday
nights



Congratulations

Brother Troy Rendueles

Upon the exemplary return of your
Master Mason Catechism September 21st.

Our annual Farmers Degree is coming up soon. Prepare yourself to have a good and great time on Thursday, October 12th.

Brethren all 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 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 at \$10.00 each. Please consider this donation well. Many of the brothers have tickets available. Don't be bashful - - ask for one or more.

Chair Chatter

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

Now that the Hurricane is over we can get back to fun and fellowship, there was some damage to our Lodge building and a few tree tops down but nothing serious. Let's welcome Brother's Earl P. Spatz, Jr. and Paul Waverock into our Lodge; both have transferred to J.F. Swartsel. Also Messrs. Kaleem Syed, and Fred George Krauer Jr. were initiated on August 24th, 2017. I congratulate our newly obligated Brothers and look forward to seeing them at Lodge.

Calendar of Important Lodge Dates for October 2017

- 2nd 7:30, Friendship No. 209 Meeting.
- 4th **6:30, Degree Practice @ Swartsel.**
- 4th 7: PM District School of Instruction @ John Darling No.154.
- 5th **DDGM'S Official Visit to Swartsel No.251 Dinner @ 6:30 PM, Lodge opens at 7:30 PM.**
- 11th **6:30, Degree Practice @ Swartsel**
- 12th **Donald E. Belcher Annual Farmer's Degree @ Swartsel / Dinner @ 6:30 PM, Lodge opens at 7:30 PM.**
- 13th 7: PM, Masonic Park Board Meeting @ Tampa No. 240.
- 15th **Zenda Grotto Oktoberfest Fund Raiser, (1: PM – 3: PM).**
- 16th 7:30, Friendship No. 209 Meeting.
- 18th **6:30, Degree Practice @ Swartsel.**
- 19th **Stated Communication of Swartsel Lodge Dinner @ 6:30 PM, Lodge Opens at 7:30 PM.**
- 20th **Third Friday FULL Menu Fish Fry at J.F. Swartsel Lodge – Serving from 5 - 8: PM.**
- 22nd 11: AM, Masonic Home Board Meeting.
- 25th **6:30 Degree Practice @ Swartsel.**
- 27th 6:30, Masters & Wardens @ John Darling No.154, Memorial Lodge to Follow.
- 28th 6:30 – Noon, Zone 4 open Books @ Tampa Scottish Rite.

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

It is a pleasure and honor to have returned safely from my recent vacation. My thanks go out to Brother Marty Greif for taking the helm and conducting the meetings while I was gone. He did an absolutely marvelous job and all were very well satisfied with the way the meetings went.

From the Senior Warden's station:  Brother Marty Greif

As we start thinking about our next year in the lodge I would ask that you let me know what would be of interest to you! This is your lodge and, as always, we want to make sure that we are meeting your needs. We all became Masons for different reasons; are you interested in:

- Masonic education
- Charity
- Community involvement
- Ritual work
- Something else???

I'm asking this not only of the Brothers who regularly attend Lodge, I am also asking those of you who have not been in a while. Please let me know your thoughts and I promise you that whatever you tell me will be safely lodged in my breast as it was in yours before being thus communicated. You can reach me either by e-mail at marty@sitetuners.com or by phone at 813.334.3867.

I would love to hear from you!

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

Brethren; thank you for your prayers and good wishes while I have been out of Masonic action. This has been a slow (as well as sometimes painful) recuperation; but I am coming along well. My special thanks also go out to Sister Cindy Long from our Order of the Eastern Star for her unwavering devotion in continuing the preparations of the food for our meetings.

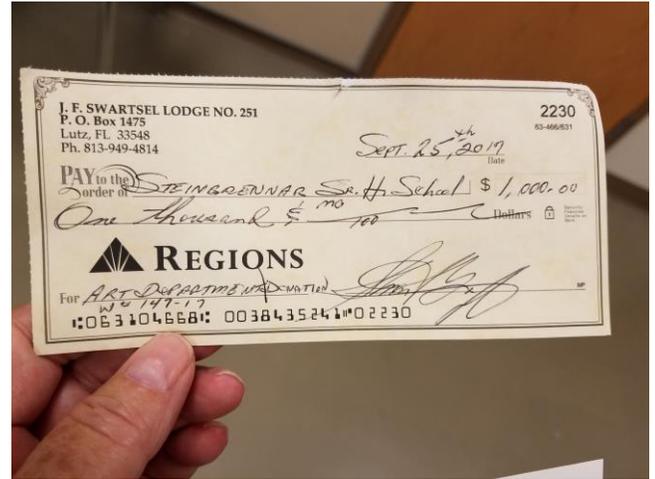


It was an absolute pleasure and honor to live up to our charitable obligation.

On Tuesday, September 26, 2017 your lodge presented a check for \$1,000.00 to the Art Department at

George Steinbrenner High School, 5575 W. Lake Fern Road, Lutz, FL 33558.

In attendance for this presentation were and W.: Stuart Graff, R.:W.: Sam Pesola, Ms. Miller (the teacher of the class, R.:W.: Don Bell, representing J.F. Swartsel Masonic Lodge; along with Ms. Kelly King (the principal of the school).



What is Freemasonry?

Freemasonry is a fraternal organization that arose from obscure origins in the late sixteenth to early seventeenth century. Freemasonry now exists in various forms all over the world, with a membership estimated at around 5 million, with around 480,000 in [England](#), [Scotland](#) and [Ireland](#) alone, and nearly two million in the [United States](#). The various forms all share [moral](#) and [metaphysical](#) ideals, which include, in most cases, a constitutional declaration of belief in a [Supreme Being](#). The fraternity is administratively organized into Grand Lodges (or sometimes Orients). Each governs its own jurisdiction, which includes subordinate or *constituent* Lodges. Grand Lodges recognize each other through a process of landmarks and regularity. There are also appendant bodies, organizations related to the main branch of Freemasonry, but with their own independent administration. Freemasonry uses the metaphors of operative stonemasons' tools and implements, against the [allegorical](#) backdrop of the building of [King Solomon's Temple](#), to convey what has been described by both Masons and critics as "a system of morality veiled in allegory and illustrated by symbols."

Why is it called a Blue Lodge?

The question always is "Why is it called Blue Lodge? Here is some inside in this subject from my research. Why have we adopted blue into the lodge name? Where does it come from? What does it represent and mean?"

The mother of all Freemasonry. The place where every man begins his journey into the Ancient Craft of Free and Accepted Masons. The Blue Lodge. It has been here in America that the term has become popularized and widely used. Originally it was frowned upon, and lodges were called Craft Lodges, or Ancient Craft Lodges, some were even called a Saint Johns Lodge.

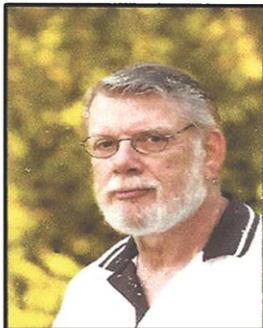
Since ancient times the color blue has been associated with immortality, eternity and fidelity. References in the Bible emphasize the special place blue has as a color symbolizing goodness and immortality. It is not known when blue first came to be associated with Freemasonry, although some historians think that initially the color was used in Craft Masonry to represent the sky. Today blue for Masons symbolizes brotherhood and the fact that Masons should seek out virtues as extensive as the blue dome of heaven.

The Hebrew word for blue when referring to spiritual matters is "tekhelet" derived from a root word meaning perfection.

It is said over and over again "There is no degree higher than the third degree and being a Master Mason in our entire institutional Fraternity".



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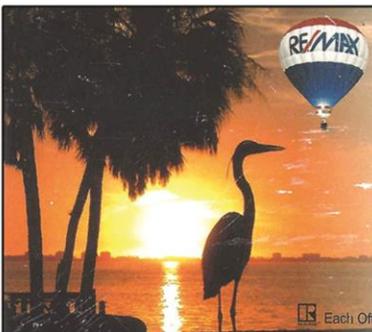
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