

J. F. Swartzel 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 and is open to the public.

The fifth Thursday night of the month is reserved for family night at the lodge –and is 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



King George's Love of Free Masonry



The King's Speech has been critically acclaimed as one of the finest motion pictures of recent years and has renewed the public's interest in, and affection for, King George VI who reigned over Great Britain from 1936 to 1952. The film, which chronicles the constitutional crisis created by Edward VIII's abdication and George's struggle to overcome his pronounced stammer, focuses on the moving relationship between the King and speech therapist Lionel Logue which had such a happy ending. It also had a happy ending at the Oscars where it won Best Picture, Best Actor (Colin Firth), Best Director (Tom Hooper), and Original Screenplay (David Seidler).

What the film does not mention, however, is that both men were members of the Craft; or that the King believed Freemasonry had also helped him overcome his disability which rarely surfaced whenever he performed Masonic ritual. Logue, who had been the Master of St. George's Lodge, Western Australia, was also speech therapist to the Royal Masonic School.

Following service with the Royal Navy in World War1, George was initiated in December 1919 into Navy Lodge No. 2612 of which his grandfather, King Edward VII, had been founding Master. On that occasion he noted:

I have always wished to become a Freemason, but owing to the war I have had no opportunity before this of joining the Craft. All my life I have heard about Freemasonry, and though there has always been a certain mystery attached to it I have learned that Freemasons in this country have been a great help to the poor and friendless and have been notable for their efforts on behalf of children....I like to think that in the future I shall be associated in their great work.

From that moment he had become a most dedicated and active Freemason. He was invested as Duke of York in 1920 and the following year was installed as permanent Master of Navy Lodge. He joined several more Lodges as well as moving on to play an active role in other degrees including Royal Arch, Mark (separate from the Royal Arch in England), Scottish Rite, and Knights Templar. He was appointed Senior Grand Warden of the United Grand Lodge of England in 1923 and one year later became Provincial Grand Master of Middlesex.

Believing his future lay in voluntary service Prince Albert devoted an ever increasing amount of time to Freemasonry and other worthy causes, and in November 1936, after joining a small village lodge north of the border (whose Master was the local postman) the Prince was installed as Grand Master of Scotland.

King George V died in January 1936 and was succeeded by his eldest son Edward, Prince of Wales, who had been initiated (also in 1919) into the Household Brigade Lodge No. 2614. On becoming King, Edward VIII followed precedent and resigned from his many Masonic offices.

However less than two weeks later Edward VIII had abdicated and Albert with the greatest reluctance ascended to the throne taking the name George VI. The aforementioned precedent required him to resign his Masonic appointments. However his love of the Craft was such that when it was suggested a new UGLE position of Past Grand Master be created especially for him he immediately accepted. On being invested he stated "Today I have reached the pinnacle of my Masonic Career." He was doubly pleased soon after the Grand Lodge of Scotland conferred upon him a similar honor. He continued to play an active role in ceremonies and as King, and Past Grand Master he personally installed three Grand Masters of the United Grand Lodge.

In spite of the universal condemnation of Edward's abdication, George continued to admire his brother despite the burdens he was now forced to bear. A note found among his papers, which refers to the most private part of the point of handover of the monarchy, clearly indicated the depth of the bond that remained between two brother of blood and the Craft. "On entering the room I bowed to him as King." Then following the moment of abdication he continued, "When David (Edward VII) and I said goodbye we kissed, parted as Freemasons and bowed to me as King".

After WWII, King George wrote that "Freemasonry has been one of the strongest influences of my life," and in collaboration with engraver Reynolds Stone helped create a postage stamp, part of the "1946 Victory Issue," which is filled with Masonic symbolism.

The 3rd Victory Stamp depicts the King's head in the East his eyes firmly fixed on illustrations of a dove carrying an olive branch (representing peace and guidance), the square and compasses (in the second degree configuration), and a trowel and bricks (the sign of a Master spreading the cement that binds mankind in brotherly love).

On the stamp the images appear in white, the color of purity, out of purple, the color of divinity. The three coupled illustrations are surrounded by a scrolled ribbon made up of five figure threes. It was the unusual position of the wording meant to represent two great pillars. By its name and intention the stamp portrayed victory over evil, yet by its appearance it expressed compassion and hope.

King George VI once stated, "The world today does not require spiritual and moral regeneration. I have no doubt, after many years as a member of our Order, that Freemasonry can play a most important part in this vital need". The Victory Stamp captured those words in a graphic representation.

He reinforced those thoughts in 1948 in an address he gave to the United Grand Lodge of England. Those words seem as fresh, meaningful and worthy of our most serious contemplation today as they did then.

I believe that a determination to maintain the values which have been in the rock upon which the Masonic structure has stood firm against the storms of the past is the only policy which can be pursued in the future. I think that warning needs emphasizing today, when men, sometimes swayed by sentimentality of an indiscriminate tolerance, are apt to overlook the lessons of the past.

King George VI (Center of the bottom row) with Scottish Rite Freemasons



Remember King George VI second (last) quote from above. December 7th is not only Pearl Harbor Day, but J.F. Swartzel's election of 2018 officers as well. Vote your own conscience and vote for the benefit of the craft as well as your lodge.

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

Thanks! Thanks! Thanks! Thanks! Thanks!  Thanks! Thanks! Thanks! Thanks! Thanks!



Your 2017 Lodge Officers



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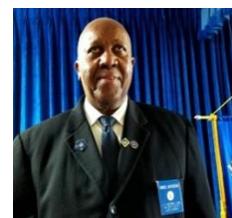
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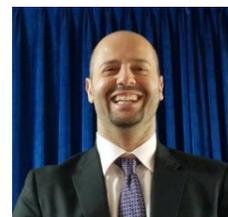
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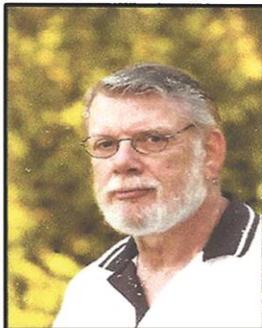
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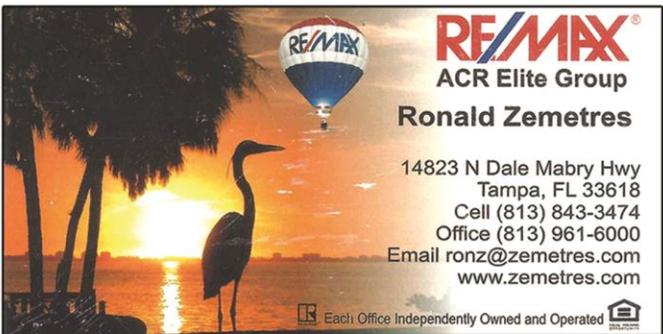
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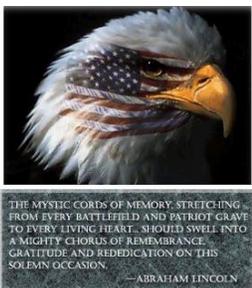
Veterans Day....

Is more than just another day of the year.



Originally this day was named Armistice Day and was meant to mark the signing of the declaration of armistice between the allies of WWI and Germany at Compiègne, France for the cessation of hostilities on the Western front. It took place at 11 o'clock in the morning - - 'the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month of 1918'. The date was declared a national holiday in many allied nations. This date and day of celebration has taken many forms since then. As far as we, as Masons, are concerned, we have set the date aside for a special 'Veterans Day Degree' where we are proud to initiate, pass or raise a brother who has proudly served in our military. This year was no exception. Holyrood Lodge #257 had the honor this year and John Darling Lodge #154 hosted the Master Mason degree as we raised Brother Joel Tavera to the sublime degree of Master Mason. Brother Tavera was a SSG during Operation Iraqi Freedom. During his tour and while riding in a Humvee type vehicle with three other freedom fighters, he was leaning out of the door looking for IEDs when a rocket hit his vehicle. Two of his companions were killed, one of the other two was injured and he was severely injured to the point that it was thought he would also lose his life. He has undergone numerous surgeries due to his injuries. He has lost his right leg, both of his arms were severely damaged, he was completely blinded and had massive injuries to his head. It is not difficult to pick him out in the above photo.

Many thanks go to the Brothers representing the several lodges that participated in this momentous occasion.



Chair Chatter

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

On a personal note for the closing of the year I thought it only fair to thank each and every one of my brothers for the help and satisfaction I have gotten from each of you. I know that if I tried to name each I would leave someone out, therefore, if you believe you should have been mentioned, please consider it done. This is a very different column than the one I usually write and that is due to my "other" family obligations. We are spending Thanksgiving together along with some of our very close friends at our campground. We are spending it by practicing brotherly love – but not in the biblical sense – with each other. We all wish you and yours a very happy Thanksgiving as well as the rest of the year.

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

Thank you for the honor of serving you as Worshipful Master this year. Swartsel Lodge has had a good year; not because of what I have done, but rather, what you, the Craft, has done. The harmony of a pacific Lodge has been evident all year.

To be a good Worshipful Master it is necessary that the officers of the Lodge work with him. I am fortunate to have had the best Secretary in Masonry, supporting me and making me look good. It is through the efforts of the Secretary and Treasurer, assisted by the other officers and brethren, that the Lodge shines forth as one of the best, most active, in the state.

There are so many Brothers that have selflessly worked to support the Lodge that I will not attempt to name them (for surely I would forget to mention someone who should be mentioned.) I thank you all for your tireless duty and devotion to the Lodge and Masonry. I am proud to call you Brothers!

I would be remiss, however, if I didn't mention our "Kitchen Goddess" who has kept us well fed. I would also like to mention our "Stealth Mason," Frank Penny, our Chaplain. Brothers, the yard doesn't cut itself, and the restrooms don't clean themselves, the driveway doesn't patch itself, nor does the building paint itself. Brother Frank does many of those tasks that keep our Lodge, and thereby the Craft, neat and orderly – I appreciate all you do Frank!

Lastly, let me offer my support and congratulations to Marty Greif, our presumptive Master, and his elected, and appointed officers. Brothers, the best advice I can give you for the ensuing year is to get out of the way of the Craft, and let them continue to grow the Lodge through the peace and harmony they displayed this year.

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

At our first stated meeting on December 7th we will hold the raffle drawing for the AR15 Pistol. You still have time to buy tickets to support our lodge. If you can't make it to the lodge, but would like a ticket, let me know and we will either mail them, or if you are in the area, drive them to your house.

The tickets are only \$10 each for a chance at a pistol valued at \$1,500. The odds are in your favor Brothers.

This month we also have an Entered Apprentice Degree on Thursday, December 14. Please join us in the initiation of these candidates for the Three Degrees in Masonry. The Degree Team has been practicing every Tuesday, so we can put on a good degree. However, what would make this a GREAT Degree would be your presence! So, if you can, please join us.

Last, but not least, as we plan for 2018, let me know what you would like to see the lodge doing that would increase your desire to participate. It's your lodge so please let me know.

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

Brothers, as this year comes to a close I want to wish everyone and their families a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year. I enjoyed serving you as your Junior Warden this year and want to particularly thank Cindy Long for all of her help in the kitchen.

I look forward in continuing to serve you in the upcoming year and working with our newly obligated brothers with the catechism, as well as helping in our degree work with other brothers.

I especially want to Thank Sam Pesola for his work as Worshipful Master and support he continues to give our Lodge. It is really appreciated.



From the desk of the editor: W* Stuart Graff

It has been my distinct honor and pleasure, not only serve you as your Lodge Treasurer during the past two years, but also as the editor of your Trestleboard. The pleasure that it gives me pales in comparison only to the pleasure that I hope you are getting from this. I have been successful in working with new brothers and bringing them through all their catechisms and know in my heart that they will become great assets; not only to Masonry in general, but to our lodge in particular. I not only thank you the aforementioned opportunities but with your vote of confidence, I am looking forward to continuing with the same. As a footnote: I have also enjoyed bringing Masonic education to you, not only in the Trestleboard, but during the lodge meetings as well. If there is a particular Masonic subject that you would like to learn more about, please don't hesitate to let me know about it.

In accordance with Paragraph 6.01 of our By Laws, you are hereby notified of the Annual Membership Meeting of the **Masonic Park and Youth Camp, Inc.** This meeting is to be held at Tampa Lodge No. 240, Tampa, Florida on January 14, 2018 at 2:00 P.M. It is at this meeting that the business requiring notifications of the entire membership is presented and acted upon.

Pursuant to Article 4.01, Masonic Park and Youth Camp, Inc. By-Laws, the General Membership will elect members of the Board of Directors for the year 2018.

Pursuant to Article 4.06, Masonic Park and Youth Camp, Inc. By-Laws, the General Membership will vote to adopt a Budget for the year 2018.

Pursuant to Article 10.01, Masonic Park and Youth Camp, Inc. By-Laws, any properly submitted By Law Amendment will be voted upon by the General Membership.

Immediately following this meeting, the monthly meeting of the Board of Directors will be held at the same location.

This is your opportunity to elect members to the Board of Directors and in general observe and question all facets of the Masonic Park and Youth Camp operations. It is a very important meeting and we urge you to take time to attend, participate and report back to our respective Lodges on what took place during the meeting.

The family night get together that was scheduled for the 28th of December has been cancelled.

The tradition continues According to the scuttle butt we will be having our second annual Wild Game Supper at a date to be determined by the newly elected officers. As with last year, the supper will all be prepared by newly raised Master Masons. This is a great way see what kind Junior Wardens we can expect to have in the coming years.



If, for whatever reason, you cannot eat wild game but would still like to attend the lodge meeting, please let you Junior Warden know. A special meal (having nothing to do with wild game) will be prepared for you. No problem. Just a little something different.

