



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

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**By order of the Most Worshipful Grand Master, we are permitted to  
resume Lodge effective June 1st**

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**During this trying time in particular, if you know of a Brother that is  
in distress, please let us know.**

**Your Catechism Instructors for the three symbolic degrees in Freemasonry are:**

W<sup>a</sup> Jerry M. Snell, Jr. - W<sup>a</sup> Stephen Edson – W<sup>a</sup> Stuart J. Graff – Br. Allan A. Jenkins

Who does J. F. Swartsel Lodge support in the community?

DONATE .... \$\$\$ DONATE .... 🕒 = \$ DONATE .... 😊

The Lutz Fire Department .... TOPS (take off pounds sensibly) Lutz chapter 56 ..... BSA (Boy Scouts of America) pack and troop 12;  
Lutz ..... Lutz Little League Baseball ..... Awards college scholarships in N.W. Hillsborough County ..... McKittrick Elementary “Helping  
Paws Program” ..... Rainbow Assembly (Hillsborough County) ..... De Molay (Hillsborough County) ..... Shriners’ Hospital ..... Lifepath  
Hospice ..... Jobs’ Daughters ..... Monthly Bingo jackpots at the Florida Masonic Home in St. Petersburg

**Freemasonry will make you a better man... but it is up to  
the efforts of men like us to make this a better Fraternity!**

**A message from our newly-elected Grand Master:**

**DIRECTIVE NO. 1**

May 29, 2020

To: All Particular Lodges and Members of The Grand Lodge of Florida

The Governor of Florida has lifted the stay at home orders and other restrictions that were set forth due to the coronavirus pandemic. As Grand Master, I hereby **ORDER AND DIRECT** that effective on June 1, 2020, all Lodges may open and continue with Lodge activities.

All Lodges will be able to resume normal Lodge Meetings and events such as, but not limited to, all Masonic Education/Masonic Leadership Training Classes, Secretaries and Treasurers Seminars, Child ID Events, Social Gatherings, all Allied and Appendant Orders and Masonic Youth Groups that meet in any Lodge buildings, and Lodge building rentals.

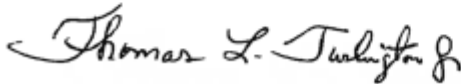
We encourage all Lodges to follow the health and safety guidelines as set forth by the Center for Disease Control. All Lodges must have a hand sanitizing station at the front door of the Lodge Building for Brothers to use upon entering. If Brothers wish to wear gloves and masks they may do so but this is not a mandatory requirement and the Brothers must provide their own personal protective equipment.

Please continue to practice "social distancing" and following the guidelines that have been set by the Center for Diseases Control. Use common sense and your best judgement. If you are sick, have a fever, or just don't feel good please do not come to Lodge.

It shall be the call of the Worshipful Master to go dark for the summer months and a vote of the Lodge is not needed; however, proper notification must be made to the membership and also to the Grand Secretary.

Take due notice and govern yourselves accordingly.

Sincerely and fraternally,



Thomas L. Turlington, Jr.  
Grand Master



**A very special thank you to all of J.F. Swartsel's Past Masters -**

**Who laid the foundation for us to build upon**

**The Past Masters of J.F. Swartsel that are still with us today, and continue to carry the torch of Light on behalf of Freemasonry**

1965 W •Thomas B. Daughtey - 1973 W •Stanley E. James - 1976 W •Phillip V. Getz -1981 W •Edward B. Wilson - 1985 W •Charles Inman - 1986 W •Gary F. Gentry - 1992 W •Floyd A. Dozier - 1995 R •W •Donald R. Bell, PDDGM - 1998 W •Gary A. Richey - 1999 W •David B. Lambert, Sr. - 2000 W •David B. Lambert, II - 2001 W •James R. Lambert - 2002 W •Gregory A. Lambert - 2003 W •Joseph E. Fara, Sr. - 2007 W •William L. Boortz - 2008 W •Gregory L. Savage - 2009 W •Drew M. Keenan - 2011 W •Richard D. Sego - 2012 W •Jerry M. Snell, Jr. - 2013 W •Gregory L. Savage - 2014 W •Jeffrey T. Sklet - 2015 R •W •Charles C. Osborne, PDDGM - 2016 W •Danilo O. Valdez . - 2017 R •W •Charles J. "Sam" Pesola, PDDGM - 2018 W •Martin A. Greif - 2019 W •Jerry M. Snell, Jr.



## Recommended & Required Practices to Employ when Returning to Lodge Operations

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- **SICK? STAY HOME.**: *If you are sick in any way, have a fever, and especially if you have any symptoms of sickness related to COVID-19, stay home and do not attend functions.*
- **AGE & CONDITIONS**: Members classified as *“senior citizens” aged 65 or older and members with significant underlying medical conditions* (such as chronic lung disease, moderate to severe asthma, serious heart conditions, immunocompromised status, cancer, diabetes, severe obesity, renal failure and liver disease) are *strongly encouraged* within the Florida Governor’s Executive Order 20-112 *to stay at home and take all measures to limit the risk of exposure to COVID- 19*. If attending events, *extreme caution* should be employed. Such individuals are known to have the most likeliness of potential *severe illness or death* from the illness.
- **SOCIAL DISTANCING**: No individuals should stand, sit, meet, or congregate in groups without appropriate recommended *6 foot spacing & distancing*.
- **TESTING**: It is recommended to be *tested for COVID-19* at any of the local, free test sites. See [www.hillsboroughcounty.org](http://www.hillsboroughcounty.org), click the “STAYS SAFE” link at the top for COVID-19 info, then click the button for “Getting tested for COVID-19” to find free testing sites. If you are found to be positive, remain home in quarantine for 14 days or as directed by health officials.
- **BE EDUCATED**: Know the *basics on what to do, and not do*, concerning interactions. Resources are available at <https://floridahealthcovid19.gov>.
- **HAND WASHING**: *PROPER 20 second hand washing* as described on posters is required as frequently as possible (before entering the dining room & Lodge Room, during breaks).
- **HAND SANITIZER**: It is recommended to obtain (if possible) and *carry a small bottle of hand sanitizer* in your pocket to use frequently.
- **HAND SHAKING**: Hand shaking as a greeting should be *discontinued* at all times.
- **MASKS**: It is recommended to *wear a mask upon entering the building and traveling within it*. Once you are seated at appropriate distances in the dining room or Lodge Room, masks can be removed.

**Your 2020 J. F. Swartsel Officers are as follows:**

Worshipful Master W : Adam Scott Feldman  
Senior Warden Brother Samuel McPherson  
Junior Warden Brother Raymond Joseph Ciunci  
Treasurer W : Stuart Jay Graff  
Secretary W : David Bruce Lambert Sr.  
Chaplain W : Jerry Marvin Snell Jr.  
Marshall Brother William Joe Schmidt  
Senior Deacon Brother Wade Edward Angel  
Junior Deacon Brother Dennis Morgan Victor Martin  
Senior Steward Brother Brian Andrew Reach  
Junior Steward Brother Allan Arthur Jenkins  
Tyler W : Danilo Orlando Valdez  
Musician Brother John Nagy  
Historian W : Jeffrey Thomas Sklet



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**The link is** [http://smile.amazon.com/ch/59-2740213](https://smile.amazon.com/ch/59-2740213)

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**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**

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## Chair Chatter

### **From the Secretary: Worshipful David Lambert, Sr.**

Brethren,

On June 1, 2020, All Lodges will be able to resume normal Lodge Meetings and events that were laid out in the Grand Masters Directive No. 4 such as, but not limited to, all Masonic Education/Masonic Leadership Training Classes, Secretaries and Treasurers Seminars, Child ID Events, Social Gatherings, all Allied and Appendant Orders and Masonic Youth Groups that meet in any Lodge buildings, and Lodge building rentals.

The safety of our Brothers and their families are our top priority. Please continue to practice “social distancing” and following the guidelines that have been set by the Center for Diseases Control. Use common sense and your best judgement. If you are sick, have a fever, or just do not feel good please do not come to Lodge.

### **Calendar of Important Lodge Dates: June 2020.**

<b>1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>Lodges &amp; Appendant Resume Labor.</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>6:00 – 7:00 Officers meeting.</b>
<b>3<sup>rd</sup></b>	6:30 - District School of Instruction @ John Darling 154.
<b>4<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>Stated Communication of Swartsel Lodge, Dinner @ 6:30 PM, Lodge Opens at 7:30 PM.</b>
<b>9<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>6:30 – 7:30 Degree Practice.</b>
<b>11<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Monthly Lodge Visit: Brandon Lodge #114 (6:30/7:30 PM) 203 N. Moon Ave. Brandon, FL 33510</b>
<b>12<sup>th</sup></b>	7:PM - Masonic Park Board Meeting @ Tampa 240.
<b>16<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>6:30 – 7:30 Degree Practice.</b>
<b>18<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Stated Communication of Swartsel Lodge, Dinner @ 6:30 PM, Lodge Opens at 7:30 PM.</b>
<b>20<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Grand Master's Official Visit to District 19/20 @ Tampa Scottish Rite. Registration 6 PM</b>
<b>23<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>6:30 – 7:30 Degree Practice.</b>
<b>26<sup>th</sup></b>	6:30, Hillsborough County Master Masons Association @ John Darling 154, with Memorial Lodge to follow.
<b>27<sup>th</sup></b>	8:30 AM – Noon / Zone 4 Open Books @ Tampa Scottish Rite.
<b>30<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>6:30 – 7:30 Degree Practice.</b>

### **From the Worthy Matron: Elizabeth McAbee**

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

With everyone's attention on the pandemic, it can be easy to lose focus on other equally, if not more, important things. Saturday, March 14, was Friendship Chapter's Installation of Officers. Our Chapter's next Stated Meeting will be on Monday, September 21, at 7:30 p.m. That will be more than 6 months! Since March, we've “celebrated” (albeit quite differently this year) Easter, Mother's Day, Memorial Day, birthdays, anniversaries, and we'll soon honor fathers and celebrate our independence on July 4. It's not as much fun without the fellowship of our Sisters and Brothers!

Our peace of mind can't be tied to external events that change from day to day, but must be grounded in our eternal God, who is the same yesterday, today and forever. Whether it's the coronavirus today or an unknown tragedy tomorrow, hard times impact all of us. We must pray without ceasing but also live a life of service and serenity that helps others understand how to handle adversity.

We may need to stand further apart for now, but we never stand alone.

Please remember that Masons in good standing as well as any female relatives are eligible for membership in the Order of the Eastern Star. Information brochures are available in the literature holder on the wooden shelf in the Lodge foyer and our members are also happy to provide information and petitions by request.

Praying you're staying health and safe...

In His and Fraternal love,

Elizabeth C McAbee

P.G. Chaplain, Worthy Matron (813/494-6210)

## **From the Worshipful Master: Brother Adam Feldman**

My Brothers all,

First, I would like to thank all the Brothers who came out to help us deep clean the Lodge in preparation for resuming Labor! A hand sanitizing station has been placed near the door, all surfaces were cleaned and disinfected, and seats upstairs have been roped off to space our Brothers out evenly. A special thank you to Brother Frank Penny, who has and continues to be a leading force in keeping our building in the wonderful condition we always see it in!

Even though our newly elected Most Worshipful Grand Master Tommy Turlington has permitted us to return to Lodge, there are other and important factors that you should consider before returning. While every effort has been made to make our second home safe, please note that any public location where people are present provides an inherent risk of exposure to COVID-19, and we cannot guarantee that you will not be exposed during your visit to Lodge. If you are of an advanced age, are immunocompromised, or have any other underlying health condition, please take care to protect yourself as best as possible by wearing a mask, washing your hands frequently, and limiting the touching of handrails and other high-touch surfaces... or simply by staying home! This is a constantly evolving situation, and the Lodge will be there for you when you feel comfortable to be there for it. This is especially true if you are sick. I will have instructed a member of our Lodge to be taking temperature readings at the door, and Brothers with a temperature over 100.4 will not be admitted.

In addition to the events at JF Swartsel, events throughout the District are starting up again as well. If you are available to attend MLT and District School this Wednesday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>... you'll find a familiar face running MLT (yours truly), and I hope to get as many of our Brothers through the course during my year as possible. While on that subject, congratulations to our Brothers Worshipful Marty Greif and Worshipful Jeffrey Sklet on their appointments to RWDDGM Steven Fortier's traveling committee for District 19!

District School this month will be on how to properly receive the GM for his upcoming Official Visit to District 19 on 6/20/20 at the Scottish Rite Building on Memorial. Please come out and show JF Swartsel's support for our new Grand Master of Masons if you feel comfortable doing so.

I hope to see you all soon!

## **From the Senior Warden: Brother Samuel McPherson**

My Brothers, it is June and 2020 is half over we are still on partial quarantine Coronavirus 19 is still continually active. In times like these, Brothers help Brothers, so hopefully we are keeping in touch with each other. If you know of someone, Mason or not, in need of assistance, let us know about it so we can possibly help our neighbors, and at the same time keep awareness of the Craft.

Let us keep W: Graff in prayer and any other Brother or family member during these times. Also, I want to congratulate our scholarship recipients of J F Swartsel: Riley Clarke, Steinbrenner H S, Joseph Pereira, Steinbrenner H S and Jaylen Taylor, Land o Lakes H S Congratulation.

This month we will talk about the fast Lane

### **"Where the fast lane ends"**

Members come to masonry for many reasons, because of a relative, a friend, fellowship curiosity or maybe because they think they will get ahead. the reason we join is irrelevant. After joining, we found men who treated us with brotherly love. This in turn relieved the stress of the day. it also gave us a feeling of self-worth and helped us see the true meaning of freemasonry.

The fast movement of everyday life causes a lot of changes in our lifestyle. we move from one situation to another at such a speed that most of the time, we seldom see the conclusion of one problem before another comes. Except if it does not



turn out right, then we hear every detail of what went wrong. That is where masonry comes in. We come to lodge to meet old and new friends that demand nothing from us. thus, we demand nothing from our brethren.

We teach and are taught a more even way to live and cope with problems. We learn that all that matters is within ourselves. We learn through watching others, that a better way to do anything is through love, understanding and trust.

As we speed on and on through this ever-changing world, we come to lodge for a little bit of peace and understanding, we come to slowdown, we come because this is Where the Fast Lane ends. (William R. Fischer).

Well my brothers thus we close another month without seeing one another I am missing you all hopefully this pandemic will be over soon because this too shall pass be safe and stay healthy.

Bro. McPherson

### **From the Junior Warden: Brother Ray Ciunci**

Well its June Brothers and greetings from the South!!

I hope you have all continued to be well. Stay safe and please pray for our first responders, military and medical personnel. The exciting thing is the lodge reopens June 1<sup>st</sup>. Things may be a little bit different but the important thing is we will all be back together again.

For our next couple of meals will be meatloaf and hopefully pot pie (depending on availability). Hope you'll enjoy.

Take care and be safe,  
Brother Ray Ciunci

### **From the Junior Steward: Brother Allan Jenkins**

My Brothers, it goes without saying that these last few months has been tough on us all. We are an active group that likes to get together and realize our sense of community and belonging. In other words we enjoy Fellowship and Brotherly Love. That is a part of our every day lives that we have gone without for quite some time. Beginning in June we will start to get back to our normal ways, it might look a little different but it will be a start. I believe that we have well around 300 members of our lodge. I have been attending meetings, dinners, fish fries and Degrees for almost a year now and have probably only met around 50 of the active members of this lodge. It would be my hope that through these trying times we all realize how much we need that community to be in our lives. Not just for meetings but to be there when negative events happen. I would love to see more of you at the Lodge even if it is just for the meal before hand.

Our Fraternity is an amazing one and serves it's members well. If this messages finds you in good health and spirit, then I would invite any in good standings to start to visit and meet with the Lodge in the near future. The benefits of seeing a friendly face are endless.

In the meantime stay safe!

Allan Jenkins  
Junior Steward



### **The Sons of Liberty**

The Sons of Liberty was an organization formed in the years before the American Revolution.

In 1765 the British government who were unhappy supporting the 10,000 troops that they had stationed in the American colonies, decided to levy a tax on the colonies. This was called the Stamp Act of 1765. In the act anything that was printed in the colonies, whether it was a legal document, playing cards or anything in between, was required by law to be printed on paper that was created in London and had an embossed revenue stamp on it. This caused a series of legislative actions in various colonies in opposition to the stamp act, starting in Virginia. The motto for this resistance became "No taxation without Representation." This caused groups to form in all of the colonies who violently opposed the Stamp Act and other taxes that had been levied.

In August of 1765, the Sons of Liberty formed in Boston, Massachusetts. Soon a committee was formed in New York to communicate with other colonies and to coordinate efforts in opposing the taxes. Some of the violence that was incited led to the tar and feathering of tax collectors. This was meant to injure and humiliate the tax collectors.


On December 16th, 1773 the Sons of Liberty in Boston held their most famous act of rebellion against the tax acts. The Boston Tea Party had the members of the Sons of Liberty climbing on board British merchant ships and dumping taxed tea into Boston harbor. This action led directly to the American Revolution.

The Sons of Liberty in Boston was largely made of Freemasons from the area. Although it was not a Masonic organization and did not have an exclusive masonic membership, many of the leaders of the organization were Freemasons. A masonic legend holds that the night of Boston Tea Party, St. Andrew's Lodge of Boston, which owned the Green Dragon tavern meeting place of both the Lodge and the Sons of Liberty, had their regular meeting that night. In the minutes of the meeting it allegedly stated that the meeting was canceled due to lack of quorum. Presumably that all the members were off dumping tea in Boston Harbor.





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