



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

Published monthly Volume MMXX Issue No. 9 –September 2020 AD, 6020 AL

Welcome back to J.F. Swartsel Lodge my Brothers! If you feel comfortable attending, we would love to see you, and show you what we've been doing to improve our second home and the Lodge experience as a whole!

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Facebook: www.facebook.com/jfswartsel251

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

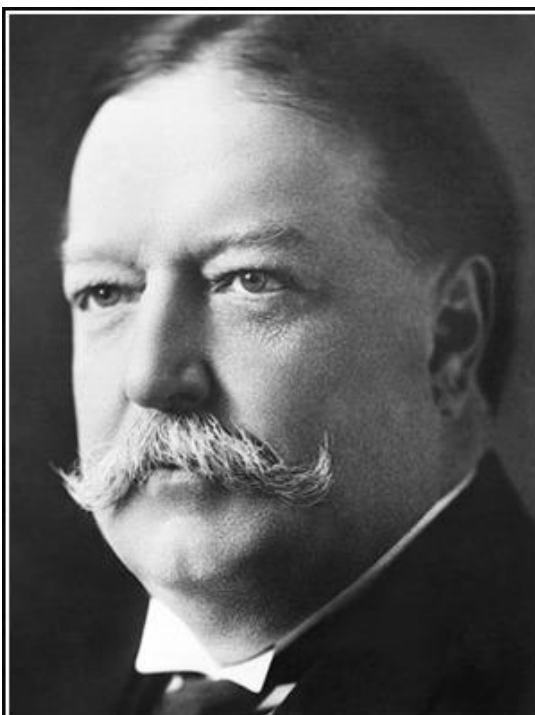
W^a. Jerry M. Snell, Jr. - W^a. Stephen Edson – W^a. Stuart J. Graff – Br. Allan A. Jenkins

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!



The secret of Masonry, like the secret of life,
can be known only by those who seek it,
serve it, live it. It cannot be uttered; it can
only be felt and acted. It is, in fact, an open
secret, and each man knows it according to
his quest and capacity. Like all things worth
knowing, no one can know it for another
and no man can know it alone.

— William Howard Taft —

AZ QUOTES

**Chaplain's Chair: Please keep continue to keep Worshipful
Stuart Graff and his family in your prayers.**

**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 - 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

- **MASKS**: As of the time this Trestleboard was published, **Hillsborough County requires us to ensure compliance by denying admittance to any indoor location to people who aren't wearing a face mask, or removing people from our Lodge who aren't following the mandate.** Once you are seated at appropriate distances in the dining room or Lodge Room, masks can be removed.
- **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, 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.

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



Your Amazon purchases can be helping the Fraternity!

Next time you need something, go to smile.amazon.com instead of [www](https://www.amazon.com), and select “the Masonic Home Endowment Fund, Inc.” , and ½% of your purchase will be donated to provide help, aide, and assistance to the residents of the Masonic Home!

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



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

Chair Chatter

From the Secretary: Worshipful David Lambert, Sr.

Brethren,

Please look at your Dues cards, if you do not have a current 2020 Dues card please send in your Dues.

Calendar of Important Lodge Dates: **September 2020.**

- 1st **6-630 PM Practice for DDGM reception**
- 2nd 6:PM, MLT with District School of Instruction to follow (7PM) @ John Darling No. 154.
- 3rd **Stated Communication of Swartsel Lodge, (DDGM Official Visit), Dinner @ 6:30 PM, Lodge Opens at 7:30 PM.**
- 8th **6:00 – 7:00 Officers meeting.**
- 9th **JF Swartsel's traveling Lodge Visit: John Darling No. 154 (6:30 PM meal, 7:30 PM meeting)**
- 11th 7:PM - Masonic Park Board Meeting @ Tampa 240.
- 15th 6:30 – 7:30 Degree Practice.
- 17th **Stated Communication of Swartsel Lodge, Dinner @ 6:30 PM, Lodge Opens at 7:30 PM.**
- 22nd 6:30 – 7:30 Degree Practice.
- 25th **6:30, Hillsborough County Master Masons Association @ John Darling 154, with Memorial Lodge to follow.**
- 26th **Zone 4 Open Books @ Tampa Scottish Rite, 8:30 AM – Noon.**
- 29th 6:30 – 7:30 Degree Practice.

From the Worthy Matron: Elizabeth McAbee

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Friendship Chapter will be dark through September by order of our Worthy Grand Matron. Our next meeting will be Monday, October 19, which will be R.E.S.T. Night.

The dinner to honor our First Responders has been rescheduled to the first Monday in October 2021. Please continue to keep our First Responders and their families in your prayers as our country recovers from the COVID pandemic and the unrest spreading throughout our cities.

Masons in good standing and their female relatives are welcome to join the Order of the Eastern Star. Information brochures are available in the literature holder on the wooden shelf in the Lodge foyer. If you are not yet a member, please contact me and I will be glad to provide information and a petition.

Praying you stay healthy and safe...

In His and fraternal love,

Elizabeth C McAbee
Worthy Matron
813/494-6210



From our Lodge Mentors

Being a Mason is much more than going through the Degrees. While important, our Degrees are not the goal in and of themselves. The goal is to become a Better Man.

In our Masonic Lectures, we are taught the lessons that can point us towards achieving our goal. These lessons can take time to fully understand. There is so much to learn from these lectures that every time we hear them we can take away yet another nugget.

Unfortunately for many reasons, some Masons stop learning and potentially, stop progress towards their goals. In fairness, this happens to all of us from time to time as life intrudes.

So what can we do about that? First off, our Masonic Lectures can be studied. You don't need to hear them only at the Degrees. So if increasing your Masonic knowledge is on your list, take a moment to reflect upon what we learn in our Masonic Lectures.

If reading is not your thing, that's ok too. Reach out to one of your Lodge Mentors. Any of us would be happy to sit down with you. Remember, improving yourself in Masonry does not end once you become a Master Mason.

Worshipful Master: Brother Adam Feldman

The DDGM Official Visit to J.F. Swartsel Lodge will be our next Stated Communication (9/3/20). Please come out and show your support for RWDDGM Steven Fortier and his traveling committee through your attendance.

Our Lodge visit in August was to Trilby Lodge #141 for our Brother RW Ron Stanley's 70 year pin presentation. You've doubtless heard reference to this "invisible line" between District's 19 and 20 that they have been trying to erase since I have been a Mason... but the invisible line that needs to be erased is the division we insert mentally between every one of our Districts. We are all Brothers, and to be received so warmly at Trilby is indicative of the reception you as a Master Mason will experience in any Lodge you travel to. It can be said, the Mason who is raised and never experiences our Craft outside his own Lodge is still wearing his hoodwink.

Congratulations to Br. James Tanner, for taking the first step in his Masonic Journey! Congratulations as well to Brs. Hudson, Lewellen, and Dellis ... that were Raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason 8/27! This was a long journey for these Brothers, who had their studies halted during the 10 weeks we went dark. I know how hard you've worked, and I've seen how far you've come... J.F. Swartsel is a stronger Lodge because it can now include you among its ranks as Master Masons!

Next month's Lodge visit is to John Darling Lodge on September 9th to see our Brother Sam Itani in the East. If you feel comfortable traveling, it would be great to show up strong to this Visit. The meal is 6:30p, and the SC is at 7:30p.

During the month of August, the Eagle Scouts finished the beautification of our Lodge by adding several magnolia trees to the front of the property. In addition, we had the portrait of J.F. Swartsel and our Charter reframed, and both look fantastic! Thank you to RW Don Bell and Br. Dennis Martin for assisting me with this project. I look forward to you seeing the changes we have made (and continue to make) whenever you feel comfortable returning to your second home!

From the Senior Warden: Brother Samuel McPherson

My Brothers,

We are 7 months in the Covid -19 Pandemic in the month of September, and we have not found a way to slow it down. We have got to obey the new way of Life, following the rules set before us of wearing our mask, washing of hands , social distancing , and just "looking out for each other"... We have to now truly be our Brother's keeper. Let us remember to keep in prayer our Brothers who have been side lined by various grievances, especially W: Graff prayers for healing my Brothers.

The month of August was busy as a Lodge! On the 13th we had an E.A. Degree for James E Tanner, welcome to the Fraternity and enjoy your journey. We also visit Trilby Lodge to celebrate plural member Stanley Hudson's 70th years as a Mason! Finally, we had a Master Mason Degree on the 27th, where 3 Brothers were raised. Congratulations to our newest Master Masons!

This month question: Are you FREE and ACCEPTED (William R Fischer)

The Masons who were selected to build the Temple of Solomon were declared free. The Free Masons were allowed to gather with their families and were exempt from paying taxes. They also had the privilege to bear arms. thus, they were accepted as free men. At the destruction of the Temple by Ne-buch-a-nezzar, these Free Masons were taken to Babylon and put into captivity with the Jews. Cyrus, after taking control of Babylon, gave these Masons permission to return to Jerusalem to erect a second Temple, freeing them to do so.

To be free they had to be accepted as free, hence the term Free and Accepted. Not all men in all cases are accepted as free, they are held by the restraints of doctrine and power. To be free in mind and body one must work at it. So, if you are asked:

Are you a Free Man? Yes

How do you know you are a free man? Because I am free to follow my dreams.

What makes you a free man? The people around me, for I am accepted as a free man.

If you can answer these questions in this manner you are truly a Freemason.

Bro. McPherson SW

From the Junior Warden: Brother Ray Ciunci

Well its September Brothers, and greetings from the South!!

The year is passing us by and it's been quite a year. We have all dealt with the COVID malady at home and in the Lodge. Hopefully a Vaccine will be ready soon. Continue to pray for our medical personnel and first responders as well as our Brothers who may be ill.

I will continue to do my best to provide meals that will keep your time in the serving line to a minimum and be fulfilling as well. I am working on some ideas to enable us to expand our menu yet at the same time avoiding creating crowding in the serving line. Below you will find a few interesting items from a masonic dictionary. Take care and be safe.

Brother Ray Ciunci

Dictionary copyright 1999 PM John T. Mathews MasterMason.info

BLUE LODGE. A term which has grown into use over the years meaning the three degrees of the lodge, or Symbolic Masonry. In the early years, Master Masons wore blue lined aprons. Blue is symbolic of perfection, benevolence, truth, universal friendship, fidelity.

BOAZ: Comes from the Hebrew meaning "in strength." The left hand pillar that stood at the porch of King Solomon's Temple.

CARDINAL VIRTUES: Temperance, Fortitude, Prudence, and justice are virtues of morality as laid down by Plato. Cardinal comes from the Latin cardo meaning "chief or fundamental."

CIRCUMAMBULATION: The movement is in imitation of the apparent course of the sun, and so is in the form of an ellipse. After the obligation the Senior Deacon with the candidate should make all turns square.

COWANS: profanes, pretenders, intruders, particularly those seeking to obtain the secrets of Masonry unlawfully.

CORN, WINE, AND OIL: Three elements of consecration. In ancient times these were regarded as the basic commodities for the support of life and constituted the wealth of the people. Today in the U.S. we think of corn as maize, but the original meaning is an edible grain or cereal. The Hebrew word for corn means "to be increased or to multiply."

A Random Assortment of Masonic History (Part I)

Article credit: theeducator.ca

Topic suggestion: Brother Brian Reach

- At one time, Golden Lodge #5, Stanstead, Canada occupied a lodge room, which straddled the boundary between Canada and the United States. There were entrances on both sides of the border.
- Washington Chapter #3 of Portsmouth, NH announced its meetings via the town crier, who received from 6 to 25 cents for his work.
- In 1872 the Commissioner of Patents held that the Masonic emblem could not be used in a trademark or trade name for commercial purposes.
- In *Hammer v. State*, 173 Indiana, 199 (1909), the Supreme Court ruled that it was a criminal offense to wear the emblem of any society or organization of which one is not a member. The court based its decision on the fact that the membership in such societies is the result of fitness and selection and that the wearing of such emblems by non-members is a deceit and false pretense.
- In *Robinson v. Yates City Lodge*, 86 Illinois, 598 (1877), a court ruled that an expelled Mason was not entitled to the return of his degree. The court held that the plaintiff voluntarily paid the fees and the expulsion under the provisions of the rules of the organization does not constitute the rescission of a contract under which the fees were paid.
- Frederick A Bartholdi, a freemason, designed the statue of Liberty which stands in NY harbor. The Grand Lodge of NY laid the corner stone on August 5, 1885.
- Bernard Pierre Mangam, Marshall of France and Senator was appointed GM of the Grand Orient of France and served from 1862 to 1865. This is unusual because he was not a Mason. He was appointed by Emperor Napoleon III.
- The letters of the English word GOD are the first three letters of Hebrew words for beauty, strength, and wisdom. G in Gomez, O in Oz, D in Dabar.
- In 1860 in Limerick, Ireland, there was found a stone in a small chapel, dated 1517, with the following inscription: "I will serve to live with love & care, upon the level, and by the square."
- Francis Stephens, the Duke of Lorraine, received the first two Masonic degrees in 1731 in a special lodge convened at The Hague, Holland, becoming the first known royal freemason. Later he received the third degree in England. In 1735 renounced his title.
- Joseph Ignace Guillotine was a member of Concorde Fraternelle Lodge of Paris and a member of the French Assembly. He obviously invented the device that bears his name and was later executed with one.
- The Rev. William Dodd, first Chaplain of the Grand Lodge of England, was hanged for forgery on June 2nd, 1777.
- In 1839 the Mormons left Missouri and settled in the area of Nauvoo. On October 15, 1841, the IL Grand Master issued a dispensation to form a Lodge at Nauvoo. On March 15th, 1842, Joseph Smith received his first degree and the others shortly after. Certain irregularities were reported – in five months the lodge initiated 256 candidates and 243 were raised. After investigation, the Grand Master revoked the dispensation, but the lodge continued to work. On April 5, 1844, the Mormon masons dedicated a Masonic Temple. IL Masons got in trouble for taking part in the ceremony. Opposition to the group and internal dissension led to the assassination of Joseph Smith and the removal of the Mormons from IL.

To be continued...

What have we been up to?

The Brothers of 251 not only manned our Polling place, but three drop sites for the August Primary Election!

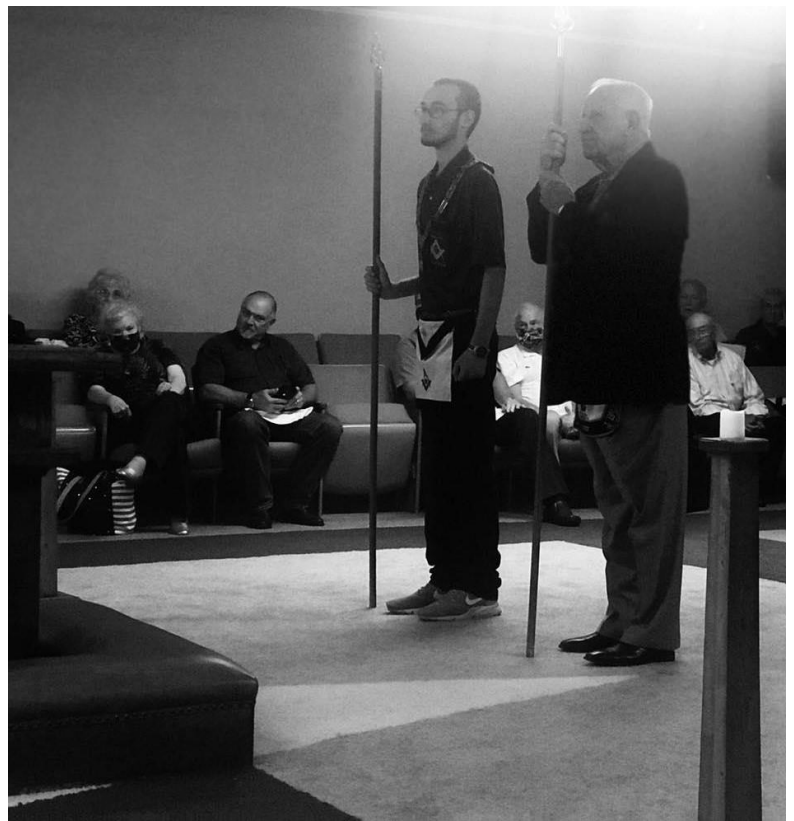
Thank you to all who came out in support of our Lodge!



Br. James Tanner's EA Degree on 8/13/20 w/ RW Silvers in attendance to deliver the lecture



Our Lodge Visit to Trilby 8/20/20, and RW Ron Stanley's 70 year pin presentation!



8/27/20 MM Degree for Brs. Dellis, Hudson, and Lewellen. RW Chavez delivered the lecture.

Our first opportunity to complete Second Section in Costumes!



York Rite Lessons

Of what is the Solomonian temple a symbol?

To the Master Mason, the Temple of Solomon is truly the symbol of human life; for, like life, it was to have its end. Masonic teachings are not intended to convey an historical fact concerning the erection of a building, but ever to keep in sight, the beauty of that Temple as a symbol of the life in which he should live as a man and Mason. Jn 2: 19 1
Co 6: 19

“The great acts of love are done by those who are habitually performing small acts of kindness.” Old Southern Proverb

What is the duty of the Tiler?

The title is derived from the operative art; as in operative Masonry the Tiler when the edifice is erected, finishes and covers it with the roof (tiles), so in Speculative masonry, when the lodge is duly organized, the Tiler, closes the door, and, and covers the sacred precincts from all intrusion. Ps 84: 10 Rev 3: 20

“The only ones among you who will be really happy are those who will have sought and found how to serve.” Albert Schweitzer

Fraternally, Zealously, and Courteously

Right Excellent Companion

James F. (Robby) Robertson, KYCH


Grand King, Grand Chapter of RAM of Florida

Laus Deo

Your humble and obedient servant



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