

J. F. SWARTSEL LODGE NO. 251 F. & A.M. TRESTLEBOARD

Published monthly Volume MMXXI Issue No. 1 – January 2021 AD, 6021 AL

Welcome back to J.F. Swartsel Lodge my Brothers!

3109 W. Lutz Lake Fern Road, Lutz FL 33558 || Mail: P.O. Box 1475, Lutz FL 33548-1475

Email: info@JFSwartsel251.org Website: www.jfswartsel251.org Phone: 813-949-4814

Facebook: www.facebook.com/jfswartsel251

On behalf of the WM McPherson and the Officers of JFS, we hope you've had a safe and happy Holiday season!

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

W. Jerry M. Snell, Jr. - W. Stephen Edson – Br. Raymond Ciunci – Br. Allan A. Jenkins







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

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

McKitrick 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

Speak wit	h honesty	

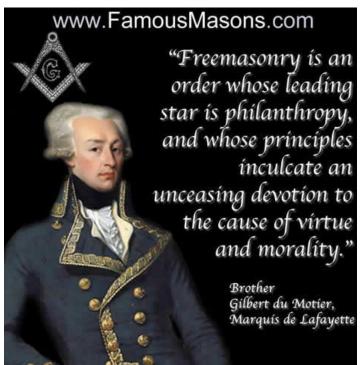
Think with sincerity

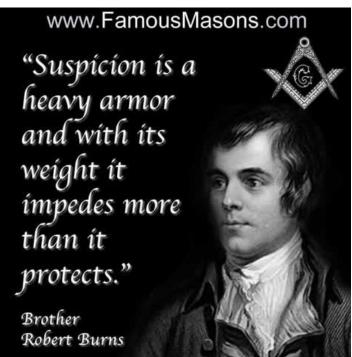
Act with integrity

To the Brothers of Districts 19 and 20:

Look what we have... Come and get it!







A very special thank you to <u>all</u> 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. - 2020 W . Adam S. Feldman



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.
- <u>SICK? STAY HOME.</u>: *If you are sick in any way*, have a fever, and especially if you have any symptoms of sickness related to COVID-19, <u>stay home and do not attend functions</u>.
- AGE & CONDITIONS: Members classified as <u>"senior citizens" aged 65 or older and members with significant underlying medical conditions</u> (such as chronic lung disease, moderate to severe asthma, serious heart conditions, immunocompromised status, cancer, diabetes, severe obesity, renal failure and liver disease) are <u>strongly encouraged</u> within the Florida Governor's Executive Order 20-112 <u>to stay at home and take all measures to limit the risk of exposure to COVID-19</u>. If attending events, <u>extreme caution</u> should be employed. Such individuals are known to have the most likeliness of potential <u>severe illness or death</u> 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 <u>tested for COVID-19</u> at any of the local, free test sites. See <u>www.hillsboroughcounty.org</u>, click the "STAYSAFE" 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.
- **<u>BE EDUCATED</u>**: Know the <u>basics on what to do, and not do</u>, concerning interactions. Resources are available at https://floridahealthcovid19.gov.
- **HAND WASHING**: <u>PROPER 20 second hand washing</u> 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 <u>discontinued</u> at all times.

WASH YOUR HANDS, COVER YOUR FACE, AND KEEP YOUR DISTANCE... SUBDUE YOUR PASSIONS

Your 2021 J. F. Swartsel Officers are as follows:

Worshipful Master W : Samuel McPherson

Senior Warden Brother Raymond Joseph Ciunci

Junior Warden Brother Wade Edward Angel

Treasurer R∴W∴ Donald Roscoe Bell

Secretary W ∴ David Bruce Lambert Sr.

Chaplain W : Jerry Marvin Snell Jr.

Marshall W : Stephen Douglas Edson

Senior Deacon Brother Dennis Morgan Victor Martin

Junior Deacon W .: Danilo Orlando Valdez

Senior Steward Brother Demetrios Thomas Dellis

Junior Steward Brother Joe Circhirillo

Tyler W ∴ Bahram (Tony) Hedayat

Musician Brother John Nagy

Historian W : Adam Scott Feldman







Your Amazon purchases can be helping the Fraternity!

Next time you need something, go to smile.amazon.com instead of www, 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



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.

6:30 - Degree Practice @ J. F. Swartsel.

Calendar of Important Lodge Dates: January 2021

10 AM – 2021, J. F. Swartsel Installation of Officers. 2nd 12:30PM - 2021 Desoto Lodge Installation of Officers. 2nd 1 PM - 2021 Tampa 240 Lodge Installation of Officers. 2nd 1 PM - 2021 PTF United Lodge Installation of Officers. 4th 2021 Palma Ceia Lodge Installation of Officers. (at their SC) 7th 2021 Olin S. Wright Lodge Installation of Officers. (at their SC) **Q**th 9 AM - 2021 Holyrood Lodge Installation of Officers. **9**th 10 AM – 2021 A.W. Windhorst Lodge Installation of Officers. 9th 10 AM – 2021 Hillsborough Lodge Installation of Officers. 5th 6:30 - Degree Practice @ J. F. Swartsel. 6th(6:PM – 7:PM, MLT), (7:PM – 8:PM, District School of Instruction @ John Darling No. 154). 7^{TH} Stated Communication of J. F. Swartsel Lodge, Dinner @ 6:30 PM, Lodge Opens at 7:30 PM. 8th 7:PM - Masonic Park Board Meeting @ Tampa 240. 12th 6:PM – Officer's Meeting @ J. F. Swartsel. 18th 7:30 - Friendship Chapter No. 209 OES Stated Meeting. 19th 6:30 - Degree Practice @ J. F. Swartsel. 21ST Stated Communication of J. F. Swartsel Lodge, Dinner @ 6:30 PM, Lodge Opens at 7:30 PM. 22nd Trestleboard Articles due to W.: Feldman. 22nd 6:30, Hillsborough County Master Masons Association @ John Darling 154, with Memorial Lodge to follow. 22nd 2021 Installation of Officers: Memorial Lodge (Following MM Assoc. meeting) 23^{rd} 10 AM - 2021 Brandon Lodge Installation of Officers. 23^{rd} 8:30 AM - till noon Zone 4 OPEN BOOKS @ Tampa Scottish Rite

From our Lodge Mentors

26th

My Brothers, as we start 2021, I thought it appropriate to share a few thoughts about 2020. Being a Lodge Mentor can be a very rewarding experience as we are able to share our knowledge and love for the Fraternity.

In 2020, it was still rewarding, but did present a few unique challenges. First off, it's hard to be a Lodge Mentor when there is no one to mentor. To that end I would like to thank the following Brothers for attaining their different Degrees this year. Brothers Demetrios Thomas Dellis, Lee Daniel Hudson, and Walter Charles Lewellen were all Raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason. Brother Thomas Martin Sheehan was passed to the Degree of Fellowcraft, and Brothers Antonio Paulino Tavares, James Emil Tanner, Raymond Norman Stefanski and Walter Burton Price, Jr. were initiated as Entered Apprentices. Brothers, even during our pandemic these Brothers made the time and effort to become involved so we all owe them our thanks.

The importance of these men going through the Degrees is that they are learning what it means to be a Mason. They see the Degree Teams performing the Ritual work and hopefully this inspires them to become even more involved in Masonry. They learn the meaning behind our work through the lectures and from the Lodge Mentors. Most importantly they are on their journey learning how they can become not only better Masons, but also better men.

Being a Lodge Mentor is not just about our newest Brothers. Being a Lodge Mentor means being there for all our Brothers. So, if you would like to discuss Masonry with one of the Lodge Mentors, each and every one of them would be honored to have that discussion.

Going forward this year, hopefully we will have more Brothers to mentor, both new Brothers and old-timers. And if you would like to be a Lodge Mentor, please let us know.

From the Worthy Matron: Elizabeth McAbee

Dear Brothers and Sisters.

I think everyone will agree that we'll be glad to see the end of 2020, and pray for a better 2021. This year has been one of interruptions. While the pandemic has significantly changed many of our plans, in some ways that hasn't been such a bad experience if it's drawn us closer to the Lord, our family and friends.

Because of the surge in COVID, Friendship Chapter did not meet in December. Our next meeting will be Monday, January 18, 2021, when we will observe E.S.T.A.R.L. (Eastern Star Training and Religious Leadership) night. This fund provides scholarship money for individuals going into ministry. Please remember that masks are required. We will have sanitizer available for your use and will maintain social distancing.

Masons in good standing and their 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 petitions are available by request.

Praying you had a blessed holiday season and that our Lord will bless, protect and prosper you and your family in 2021.

"So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with My righteous right hand."

Isaiah 41:10 NIV

Fraternally,

Elizabeth C McAbee

Worthy Matron 813/494-6210



Worshipful Master: Brother Sam McPherson

My Brothers, as we begin the year 2021, I want to first thank each of you for the confidence and authority of responsibility you have allowed me, as your Worshipful Master 2021. As we are working though COVID-19 we will continue with the responsibility of looking out for our Brothers. Thank you for your confidence! I also thank our outgoing Worshipful Master Adam Feldman for an outstanding year, though it was difficult and unpredictable, you kept the Lodge and Brothers focused. Thank you Worshipful.

There are plans to move forward this year by reconnecting with our misplaced Brothers, continue our Lodge business, have fun entertainment, visit Little League baseball game, have a social at the Lodge, family and friends' barbeque around the fourth of July, family night at the Lodge, and there are projects around the Lodge that we will tackle... So Brothers, let's put 2020 behind us and go into 2021 with a mindset of enjoying our Lodge, inviting new members, and having Degrees; taking good men and making them better men.

I want to congratulate and welcome Brother Walter Price Jr. to Masonry. Enjoy the journey and always remember your Brothers are here to guide you along the path of light.

This month we 'll talk about:

The Northeast Corner: Elbert Bede, 33

Those of us who have given any study to Freemasonry, and even those who have merely heard the ritual many times know that Geometry and Astronomy play an important part in our Rituals. What we may not know is that a great part of our Symbolism, which requires these sciences for its interpretation, is based upon beliefs that existed long before the full development of these sciences.

The Northeast Corner is an example. Its symbolism was ancient. Even at the time of the building of King Solomon's Temple, as the Lodge is symbolic of the world as pictured in ancient time when it was believed to be an oblong square, so our Northeast Corner is symbolic of the northeast corner of that world as anciently mapped. It was the point in the annual course of the Sun where it reached its northern limit, marking the summer solstice and the day of the year of greatest light.

The youngest Entered Apprentice in the Northeast Corner stands near the Worshipful Master, who symbolizes the Sun in the East, whence comes the light. In some of the primitive religions, the northeast corner was the seat of Deity and became a symbol of sanctity and virtue. Freemasonry retains that symbolism for its Northeast Corner... when the master informs the youngest Entered Apprentice.

In Operative Freemasonry, the first stone was laid in the northeast corner, and thereon was erected a temple or other edifice, sturdy and of beauty. The youngest EA should use the lessons and the teachings of the Northeast Corner whereon to erect his Temple, temporal and spiritual, sturdy and of beauty. The youngest Entered Apprentice in the Northeast Corner stands symbolically midway between darkness in the North and Light in the East. It is his part to determine whether he will move backward toward darkness or forward to the Light.

S. McPherson, WM

From the Senior Warden: Brother Ray Ciunci

Greetings from the West Brothers!!

We start a new year at the Lodge!

We once again thank W:. Feldman for a great year, and wish him well in his future masonic endeavors. I am looking forward to supporting our new W:.M:. Sam McPherson in what promises a **GREAT** year at the Lodge!

He and I have talked at length and he has a lot of ideas for 2021. More on that from him as the year unfolds, but I know he is looking at several things that will bring us all closer together and provide opportunities for us to have some fun and boost fellowship.

To say it's been a challenging year would be a very large understatement, but since we have a strong Lodge, we made it through. With the recent availability of the new COVID vaccines we can now see the light "at the end of the tunnel". Hopefully, we can soon all step out of isolation, return to the Lodge, and have some fun with our Brothers!

We should continue to pray for our medical personnel and any Brother who are recovering from the virus. (Get well Bro. Wade)

Stay safe.

Brother Ray Ciunci

From the Junior Warden: Brother Wade Angel

We finished 2020, and now begin a new year. I pray that 2021 will be better. As many of you know, I was unfortunate enough to have contracted Coronavirus, and have been out of commission for a while. I hope to join you all very soon, but I am under orders to limit my extracurricular activities as I am still very week. I want to thank all the Brothers who contacted me with their best wishes. It helped very much to hear from you.

I am looking forward to my new position in the South. Get ready for some home cooking Wade Style. I think you will like it. I also want to start getting together a list of presenters for our Masonic Education. I would like to hear from any Brother who would like to offer a presentation to the Craft. Please contact me with your subject matter at wangel1@verizon.net and I will get back to you. Thank you, Brothers. Let's have a great 2021!

York Rite Lessons

Companions and Sir Knights,

What is an atheist?

An irreligious libertine, one who denies the existence of an intelligent supreme being. A belief in God is one of the Landmarks of the Order. Ps 14: 1

"We are all like one-winged angels. It's only when we help each other that we can fly." Luciano deCrescenzo

Fraternally, Zealously, and Courteously

What is God' Name?

An Moses said unto God, Behold , when I come unto the children of Israel, and shall say unto them, The God of your fathers hath sent me unto you; and they shall say to me, What is his name? What shall I say unto them? And God said unto Moses, IAM THAT I AM: and he said, thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you. Exodus 4: 13-14

"In the Big Playground of Life, you can't swing alone." Ziggy

BARE FEET: What was the significance of putting off the Shoes?

Putting off he shoes has a threefold signification in the Scriptures. First, it was usual to put them off in token of mourning and grief, as David is said to have gone from Jerusalem barefoot, when he fled from Absalom. Second, it signified the yielding of one's right to another, and is so prescribed in Deuteronomy, and matured by Boaz. Third, It was token of respect and reverence, as appears by the command of God to Moses, and the reason assigned for it was that the ground whereon he stood was Holy, or sanctified by God's immediate presence. Dt 25: 9 Ex 3: 5 Ru 4: 7

"The question is not whether we will die, but how we will live." Joan Borysenk

Why is the Bible known as the Book of the Law?

Known Masonically as the Book of the Law, when opened at it proper place in Lodge, because it is diffusing the proper light among the brethren. The passages on which it is opened differ in the various degrees. The history of the Masonic symbolism of the Bible is interesting. Although referred to in the manuscripts before the revival of 1717, as the book upon which the covenant was taken, it was never referred to as a great light. In the oldest ritual that we have, that of 1724, --a copy of which from the Royal Library of Berlin is given by Krause,--there is no mention of the Bible as one of the lights. Preston made it a part of the furniture of the Lodge; but in the rituals of 1760 it is described as one the three great lights. In the American system, the bible is both a piece of furniture and a great light. Ps 133 Am 7: 7-9 Ex 12: 1-7

"Reflect upon your present blessings..." Charles Dickens

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

What have we been up to?

At our 12/3 meeting, the Craft approved donating \$400 to McKitrick Elementary School to help provide food and presents for local children in need. During the meeting, the Lodge raised an additional \$800 in donations from the individual Brothers, making for a total of \$1,200.00 in donations!

On 12/10, Brs. Feldman, McPherson, Dellis, and Penny presented the Gift Cards to the Principal of McKitrick, who was elated by the generosity and continued support from our Lodge.

At our second December meeting, Br. Jim Cline reported as to the many families of McKitrick who benefitted from our assistance over this especially trying Holiday season for many.

Thank you Brothers, for your immense generosity!

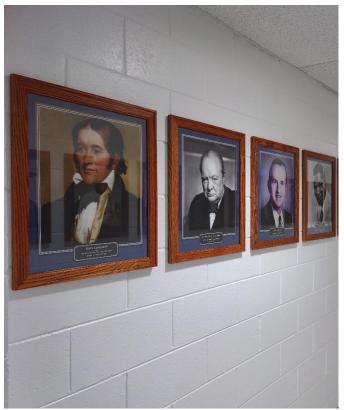


Our newest EA, Brother Walter Price Jr., was Initiated into the Fraternity 12/15! W:. Sklet presided in the East, with R:.W:. Chavez performing the lecture, and W:.M:. Perry delivering the Charge.



12/23: The Famous Mason hallway project has been completed, and just in time for our 2021 Installation of Officers. We can't wait for you to see it in person!

12/26: The Trophy case of Community's collectables has been hauled upstairs and decorated. Thank you to David Lambert, David Lambert II, James Lambert, Jeff Sklet, Joe Circhirillo, Frank Penny, Jim Cline, Jerry Haywood, and Adam Feldman for your help!





Masonic Spotlight

Brother Mason General Chuck Yeager, 'Right Stuff' test pilot who broke sound barrier, dead at 97 (Monday, December 7th, 2020)

Credit: Reuters Topic Suggestion: Br. Dennis Martin

Chuck Yeager, the steely "Right Stuff" test pilot who took aviation to the doorstep of space by becoming the first person to break the sound barrier more than 70 years ago, died on Monday at the age of 97.

Yeager, an unlikely candidate to become one of the most famous aviators in history, joined the U.S. Army Air Corps in 1941 just to work on the engines of airplanes, not to fly them. His first plane ride made him throw up. Yeager was passed over for the burgeoning U.S. space program because he never went to college, but he was hardly heartbroken not to become an astronaut. He considered them mere passengers "throwing the right switches on instructions from the ground."

Author Tom Wolfe was so impressed by the mien of the rough-hewn man from Hamlin, West Virginia, that he made Yeager a prominent character in "The Right Stuff," his 1979 book about the early days of the space program. Wolfe said Yeager was blessed with "the right stuff" that made him a legendary test pilot, but Yeager said it was more a matter of luck, better-than-average vision, and a thorough knowledge of his planes.

Those attributes served Yeager well in World War II. Flying a P-51 Mustang named Glamorous Glennis in tribute to his girlfriend, Glennis Dickhouse, he was credited with 12 "kills" of German planes — including five in a single dogfight.

After the war he became a test pilot and was assigned to Muroc Air Force Base in California as part of the secret XS-1 project, which had a goal of hitting Mach 1, the speed of sound. Yeager was a 24-year-old captain, testing out a dozen planes a week, when he first outraced sound on Oct. 14, 1947, in the bright orange Bell X-1 craft.



Capt. Charles E Yeager in the cockpit of the Bell X-1 supersonic research aircraft, Muroc Army AFB California, October 1947.

He had broken two ribs in a horseback riding accident a few days before, but did not tell his superiors for fear they would ground him. Because of the pain, he had to use a sawed-off broomstick to close the X-1's cockpit before takeoff. A B-29 bomber carried the X-1 26,000 feet (7,925 m) over California's Mojave Desert and let it go. Neither Yeager nor aviation engineers knew if the plane - or the pilot - would be able to handle the unprecedented speed without breaking up. But Yeager took the 31-foot (10 meter) X-1, powered by liquid oxygen and alcohol, to Mach 1.06, about 700 mph (1,126 kph) at 43,000 feet (13,000 meters), as if it were a routine flight. He then calmly brought the craft, which was also named for Glennis, who was by then his wife, gliding down to a dry lake bed, 14 minutes after it had been cut loose on a flight that was a significant step toward space exploration.

Yeager said he had noted a Mach 0.965 reading on his speedometer before it jumped off the scale without a bump. "I was thunderstruck," he wrote in his 1985 autobiography "Yeager." "After all the anxiety, breaking the sound barrier turned out to be a perfectly paved speedway."

Yeager was unfazed by having a job that took him to the brink of death with every outing — such as the 1953 flight on which he safely landed his X-1A after hitting Mach 2.4 and then losing control of the aircraft for 51 seconds. "It's your duty to fly the airplane," he told an interviewer. "If you get killed in it, you don't know anything about it anyway so why worry about it?"

Charles Elwood Yeager was born in Myra, West Virginia, on Feb. 13, 1923, one of five siblings. As a schoolboy, he liked math and could type 60 words per minute — an indication of the hand-eye coordination that would serve him so well in the cockpit. Yeager had no interest in airplanes as a youth — he did not even see one until he was 18, when he joined the U.S. Army Air Corps to be a mechanic.

After his test pilot heyday, Yeager commanded fighter squadrons and flew 127 combat missions during the Vietnam War. In the early 1960s, he was in charge of astronaut-style training for Air Force personnel but that program ended when the U.S. government decided not to militarize space. Still, 26 people trained by Yeager went into orbit as NASA astronauts. Yeager reached the rank of brigadier general and in 1997 he marked the 50th anniversary of his historic flight by taking an F-15 past the speed of sound. He then announced that it was his last military flight.

Yeager and his wife Glennis, who died of cancer in 1990, had four children. He married Victoria Scott D'Angelo in 2003.



Please remember to support your Trestleboard advertisers. They will appreciate knowing where their business is coming from and continue their sponsorship.





Soft and safe be the earthly bed of our Brother; bright and glorious be his rising from it. Fragrant be the acacia sprig which shall flourish there. May the earliest buds of spring unfold their beauties over his resting place, and, in the bright morning of the world's resurrection, may his soul spring into newness of life and expand into immortal beauty in realms beyond the skies. Until then, dear Brother, Farewell!



Phone (813)960-PEST Fax (813)968-PEST (7378)

Inspection Specialist

Tony Hedayat State Certified Pestex1@yahoo.com

7222 N. Dale Mabry Hwy Tampa, Fl 33614 1-888-4-PESTEX www.pestexweb.com



Jody Clayton, CFP®, CLU®, ChFC® President

2130 Ashley Oaks Circle, Suite 101, Wesley Chapel, FL 33544 Direct Number: 813-482-9415 • Fax: 813-345-8519 Cell: 813-294-3201

Email: jclayton@jhnetwork.com • Website: www.jclaytonfinancial.com



