



JF SWARTSEL #251 F.&A.M. TRESTLEBOARD



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Published monthly Volume XCVI Issue No. 3 – March 2021 AD, 6021 AL

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Our Lodge Visit for March will be to Holyrood Lodge No. 257 on 3/11. Meal will be served at 6:30 pm (\$10 suggested donation), with the meeting to begin at 7:30 pm

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

DONATE



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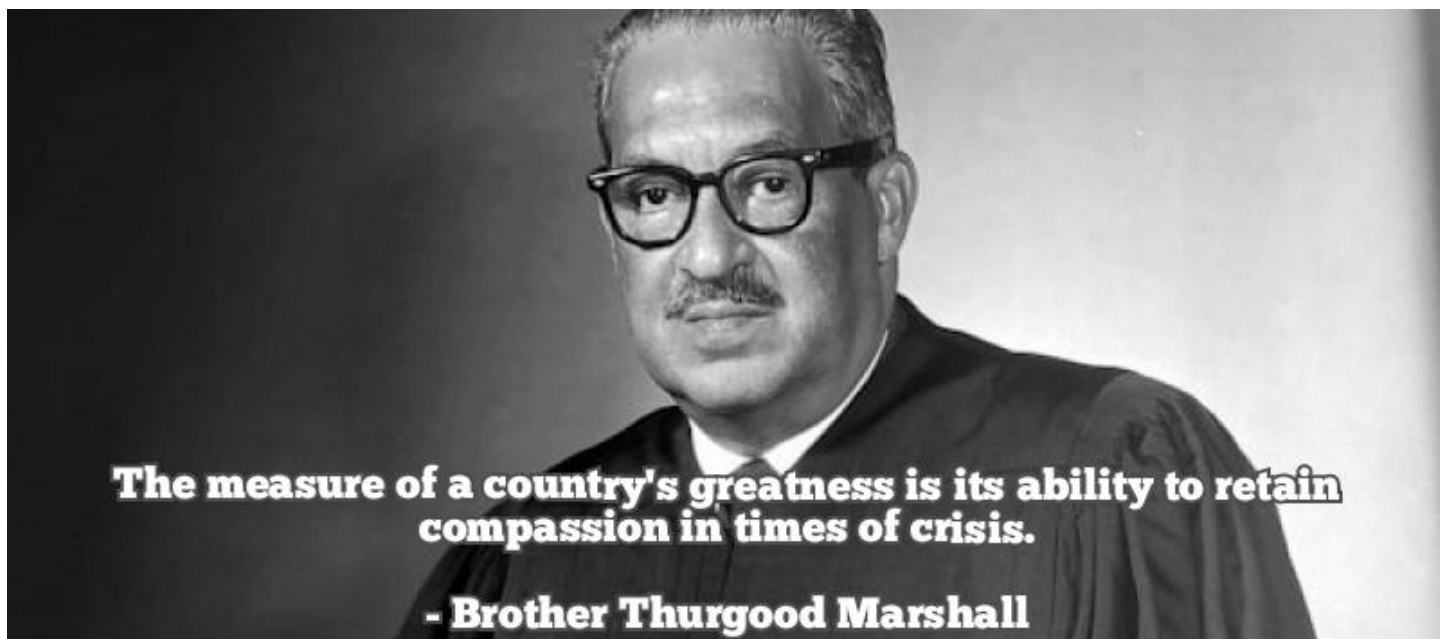


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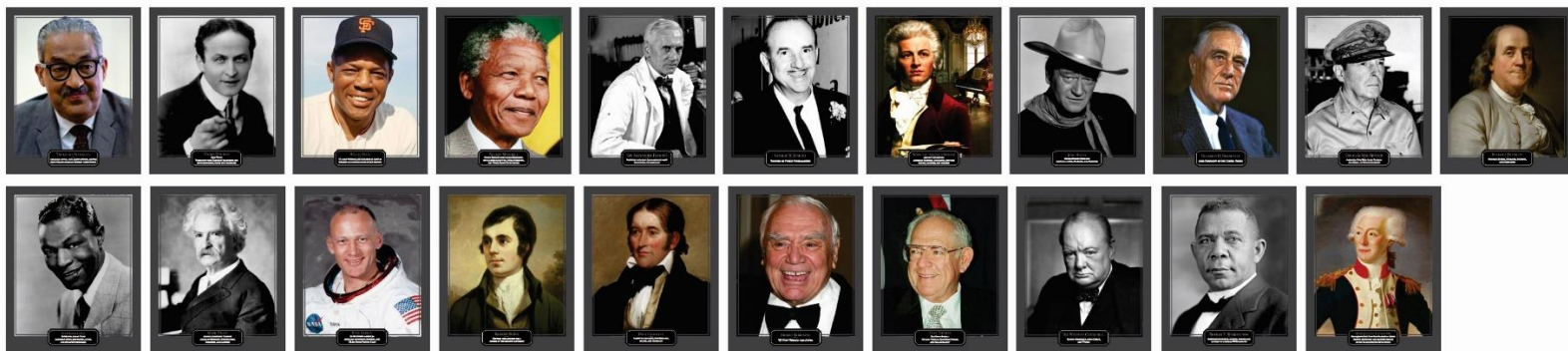


Who does J. F. Swartsel Lodge support in the community?

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
McKittrick Elementary School
“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



If they could do the things they did then,



imagine the things that we can do now.

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. - 2020 W * Adam S. Feldman



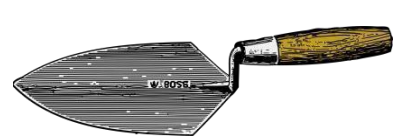
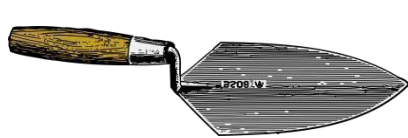
Recommended & Required Practices to Employ when Returning to Lodge Operations

- **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.
- **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.

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](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.

Calendar of Important Lodge Dates: March 2021

- 2nd** 6:30 - Degree Practice @ J. F. Swartsel.
3rd (6:PM – 7:PM, MLT), (7:PM – 8:PM, District School of Instruction) @ John Darling No. 154.
4th Stated Communication of J. F. Swartsel Lodge, Dinner @ 6:30 PM, Lodge Opens at 7:30 PM.
9th 6:PM, Officers Meeting @ J. F. Swartsel.
11th **Monthly Lodge Visit: Holyrood No. 257, Dinner @ 6:30 PM, Lodge Opens 7:30 PM.**
12th 7:PM - Masonic Park Board Meeting @ Tampa 240.
15th 7:30 PM, Friendship Chapter No. 209 Stated Meeting.
16th 6:30 - Degree Practice @ J. F. Swartsel.
18th **DDGM FORTIER'S 2ND VISIT** (SC) of J. F. Swartsel Lodge, Dinner @ 6:30 PM, Lodge Opens at 7:30 PM.
19th Trestleboard Articles due to W. Feldman.
23rd **FELLOWCRAFT DEGREE @ J. F. Swartsel, Dinner @ 6:30 PM, Degree begins at 7:30 PM.**
26th **6:30, Hillsborough County Master Masons Association @ John Darling 154, with Memorial Lodge to follow.**
27th 9: AM - till noon Zone 4 OPEN BOOKS @ Tampa Scottish Rite
30th 6:30 - Degree Practice @ J. F. Swartsel.

From our Lodge Mentors

My Brothers, this past year, despite COVID-19, we had a good year due to the sound leadership and support of the Craft. We can improve this year to a greater height if we continue in that trend. To accomplish this, we need to communicate better so that we can function at a higher level. Let us continue in that path, and be the best.

Fraternally,
Danilo O. Valdez PM

From the Worthy Matron: Elizabeth McAbee

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Our new Chapter year begins in March. As reported in last month's article, the elected officers who served for 2020-2021 were elected to serve in the same capacity for our new year. Due to continued COVID concerns, our Installation of Officers will be held at our regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, March 15, 2021, when we will also observe Obligation Night.

We will celebrate our Chapter's birthday and honor Past Matrons and Past Patrons with a covered dish dinner on Monday, April 5, at 6:30 p.m. It would be wonderful if this celebration would be definite, but it is currently tentative and will depend on the COVID situation. Updated information will be provided in the next article. There will be no Stated Meeting in April as our meeting date occurs during the week of Grand Chapter.

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're blessed...

Fraternally,

Elizabeth C McAbee
Worthy Matron
813/494-6210
Matthew 5:16

A NEW
YEAR
&
NEW
OPPORTUNITIES

Worshipful Master: Brother Sam McPherson

Brethren, here we are into March! Spring is fast approaching and time waits for no one, so we must continue our business as a Fraternity and in our personal lives. Our numbers for the Pandemic are going down, and hopefully they will continue to do so.

I want to congratulate our new Brothers Jared R. Moren, Jermaine A Bennett, and David M. Shawver on beginning their journey in Freemasonry; welcome to the Fraternity and enjoy your journey! Also, this past month we congratulated Bro. Robert C. Best on receiving his 40-year pin and certificate. Our visit for the month February to Temple Terrace #330 had a good turnout... Brothers, make it a point to visit other Lodges, and get to know other Brothers from the various Lodges in the Tampa Bay community. As you travel, your Lodge becomes better known. Thank you, my Brothers, for making the sacrifice of being away from home.

Our Lodge visit for March is Holyrood Lodge #257 March 11, 2021. If your cable tow permits, I'd love to see you there.

If you have not been to Lodge in a few months or more, please check-in with myself or another Brother just to say, "I am okay." You are missed; let's keep in touch... you are only a phone call away from a hello. Hope to see or hear from you soon.

Short talk Topic this Month: Challenge (William R. Fischer)

In life, challenge is abundant. Life is challenge, and because of this, life has meaning.

In Operative Masonry, the challenge was to build a great structure from rough stone. The challenge progressed from one building to another throughout the life of the mason. He had a purpose and worked diligently with his Brothers to fulfill that purpose.

In Speculative Masonry, the challenge is to build a better person through instruction, deeds, and example. The purpose is no less noble than our operative Brother's purpose, just more challenging.

Over the centuries Masonry has been persecuted by those who oppose it. Through these challenges, Masonry has grown and become stronger. We have faced and defeated every challenge and become satisfied. Maybe too satisfied.

Now we face a new and more fearsome Challenge, "Apathy."

As teens we did not care. "Who Cares?" "It doesn't matter" ... and now as adults, many of us have the same bad habits, but it does matter. The only challenge most Masons think they have is memorization of the Degree work. The only education is teaching that memorization.

We have forgotten our young Brothers who are starving for knowledge and information about Masonry. Even now it had to be ordered by the Grand Master so there would be an educational talk at every meeting. This brings up another challenge, our educators need to be enlightened before they can instruct others. All because of the lack of education and apathy.

No one cares, No one Sought, No one Taught. It's time for You to Care, Seek, and Teach if given the Chance.

Help face this challenge and help challenge others to learn, to seek, to ask and most of all to care.

Until we meet again, stay safe my Brothers

W.M. McPherson

From the Senior Warden: Brother Ray Ciunci

Greetings from the West Brothers!! – we are moving through the year quickly!

While the distribution of the COVID vaccine is moving more slowly than we had hoped, we are making progress toward putting the virus behind us!

Please continue to pray for our Military, First Responders, Medical Personnel, and Brothers who are under the weather. On that note, you may be aware that our very own PDDGM - Chuck Osborne, is recovering from successful bypass surgery and so we pray for his speedy recovery as well.

Despite being forced to operate at less than full capacity due to the virus, our Lodge continues to be very robust! Our new WM is doing very well, and we continue to obligate new Brothers. Recently, three new Brothers from our Lodge and one from another Lodge went through the EA Degree.

In addition, many improvements continue to happen. To name a few, we have installed a new wall mounted AC unit in the kitchen and, thanks to W Valdez's help, we have purchased (and will soon install) two new electric stoves to replace the old gas stoves.

Brother Angel, our new JW, has been dishing out some **very** tasty meals!

While more things will be happening as the year moves forward, we should all be thankful that we are members of one of the most active Lodges in our area. Hopefully, when the virus is behind us, we can all see each other at Lodge again.

Brother Ray Ciunci, SW

From the Junior Warden: Brother Wade Angel

We all had a good time at the February 18th EA Degree ceremony, and had great attendance to welcome 4 new Masons to our (and now their) Fraternity. Having both the South and North fairly full makes the ceremony that much more special. It means that there are a lot of Brothers willing to, "Be there" for their new Brothers, and there is just something special about hearing that many Brothers say, "So Mote it Be" in unison. The reverberation adds a certain something to the proceedings. I congratulate our newly obligated Brothers, and look forward to seeing them at our dinners in the future.

I also want to thank the Stewards, Brothers Dellis and Circhirillo for their great job getting everyone fed and taking care of the kitchen afterward.

York Rite Lessons

Companions and Sir Knights,

What is one of the prerogative rights of a Grand Master?

Any person made a Mason irregularly and desiring to correct the mistake will have to be "healed" by the Grand Master of his jurisdiction before he will be permitted to petition a regular Lodge for reinitiation. Isa 6: 10

"Life before sixty is nothing but a warm-up." Bill Hinson

What was the source of the cedar trees used in building the Temple?

And Solomon sent to Hiram King of Tyre saying, now therefore command thou that they hew me cedar trees out of the Forest of Lebanon, so Hiram gave Solomon cedar trees and fir trees according to all his desire. 1 K 5: 2-10

What is the difference between esoteric and exoteric?

Esoteric, the unwritten ritualistic work designed for and understood by the specially initiated alone.

Exoteric, that part suitable for the uninitiated public.

“I was summoned by my Country, whose voice I can never hear but with veneration and love.” Brother George Washington, 1789

“Freemasonry is unique among modern institutions in that it is only one which follows the ancient method of promulgating its teachings. Other institutions make use of symbols, many teach by analogy and allegory. But it is left to Freemasonry alone to combine all methods in one system. It stands alone in the modern world as a school of philosophy which follows the practice of attaching multiple meaning to its symbols, the material and moral explanations of which are not secret, but whose recondite meanings are ‘taught by degrees only,’ and are expanded as the candidate advances...” George H. Steinmetz *THE LOST WORD ITS HIDDEN MEANING*

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?

2/4: At our First Stated Communication, our Brother Robert Best was presented a pin and certificate to commemorate his 40 years as a Master Mason. We were also joined by Brother Weil of Zephyr Lodge No. 198, who delivered a fascinating Masonic Education on Freemasonry during the Civil War.



2/17: Our monthly Lodge Visit for February was to Temple Terrace No. 330 in hopes of reclaiming the Traveling Gavel.

Unfortunately, this was the closest we got to it, as we fell short on being able to claim the prize by two Brothers. Thank you W:M: McPherson and W: Sklet, W: Valdez, W: D. Lambert, W: J. Lambert, and W: Andrews for trying to bring it home to us!

On the plus side, the food and welcoming fellowship by the Brothers of Temple Terrace was fantastic as always...

We'll be back for it soon!



2/18: EA Degree at J.F. Swartsel Lodge! Given the pandemic, it is wonderful and encouraging to be able to welcome 4 new Brothers into our Fraternity... including a courtesy candidate from Holyrood Lodge No. 257. The Degree was attended by 36 at the start, and finished with 40 in attendance by the final Gavel drop. Thank you to the Brothers of 8 different Lodges from 3 States (FL, TX, and NH) who came out to enjoy the Fellowship, Br. John Nagy for providing the music, and RW Tony "The Irishman" Chavez for delivering the Lecture!



2/26: MM Assoc. of Hillsborough County. For the 2nd straight time, we won the tie for having the most members in attendance (10). 3/26's meeting has a vote on changing the time, date, and place of future MM Assoc. meetings.



Masonic Education – Tracing Boards

The Tracing Board is used in masonic education and lectures.

A Tracing Board is used in masonic degree work to illustrate ideas and principals put forth in its Degrees. The origins of the Tracing Board go back to the Masonic Lodges in the 18th century and before.

In the beginning of Freemasonry, in England and around the World, Freemasons did not meet in a lodge hall. Instead, they rented out the back room of a tavern once a month, or however often they held their meetings. Appropriate diagrams and other items indicating the Lodge were drawn, often with chalk, on the floor of the tavern to indicate the information that they needed to convey in their Degree work.

Some historical references have the Tyler, probably as part of the ritual of the time, drawing a rectangle on the floor. Possibly to represent the security of the room as would be the Tyler's responsibility. As the Degree progressed, the Worshipful Master or other Officers of the Lodge would fill the rectangle in with appropriate images. Most of which we would probably not recognize as being part of modern Freemasonry, particularly as you go back into the 18th century and before.

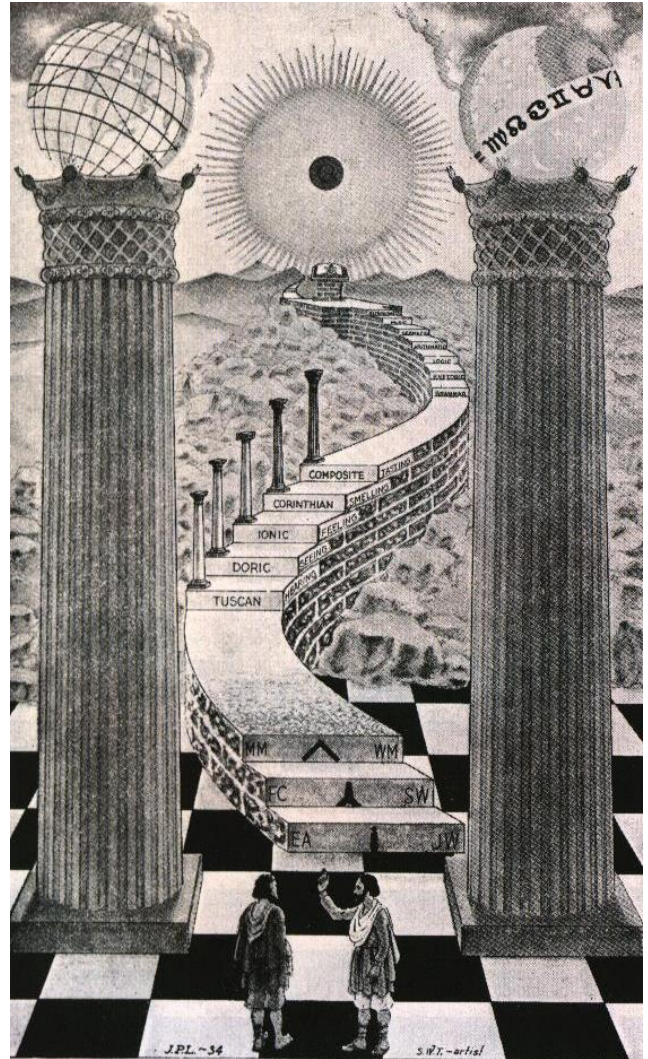
After the Degree was complete, the candidate would be directed to remove the chalk drawings with a mop and bucket. This would be a reminder of his oath of secrecy.

During non-Degree meetings they would still draw the chalk drawings as a reminder to the Brothers of the lessons that the Fraternity has taught.

Sometime in the 19th century as symbols were adopted by the Fraternity more permanent mechanisms were used. These ranged from painted boards that could be displayed or carpets that could be laid down for candidates to see. Despite the fact that these had come into vogue in the Fraternity at the time, most Grand Lodges discouraged their use since they were now a permanent display and could not be erased with a simple swipe of a mop.

By the 20th century the idea of the Tracing Board began to die out. Logically this probably coincided with more and more Lodges moving from the back room of a tavern and into their own buildings. The idea that the Lodge had to be 100% portable, sometimes referred to as a "lodge in a box", had gone away and it was now easier to have more permanent displays or larger items that could be used to illustrate the ideas and principles of Freemasonry.

Several examples of Tracing Boards still exist and can still be used to relate the concepts of Freemasonry to a candidate.



TRESTLEBOARD ADVERTISERS



"Soft and safe be the earthly bed of our Brother; bright and glorious be his rising from it. Fragrant be the acacia spring 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!"

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