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We will be reviewing the Grand Lodge Resolutions at our May 11th Officer Meeting (6pm). All MMs in good standing are welcome and encouraged to attend!

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

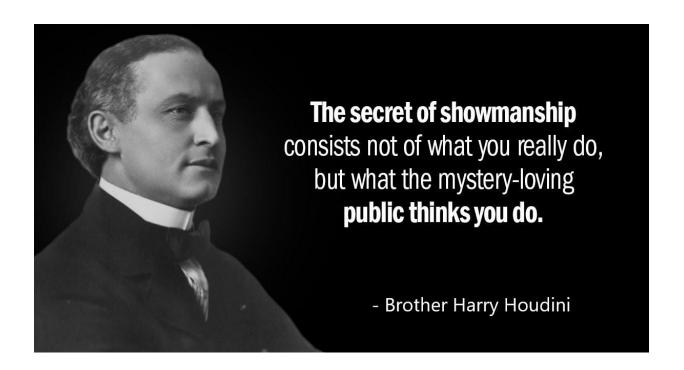






Who does J. F. Swartsel Lodge support in the community?

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 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 <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, *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 <u>6 foot spacing & distancing</u>.
- **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 <u>carry a small bottle of hand sanitizer</u> 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 (Special Election at our SC on May 20th)

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.

Brethren,

Please check your Dues card, and if you have not paid your 2021 Dues, send them to me. If you need assistance with your Dues, or need assistance with paying online with Circumscribe, give me a call or email (813) 996-4001.

Calendar of Important Lodge Dates: May 2021

- 4th 6:30 7:30 Degree Practice @ J. F. Swartsel.
- 5th (6:PM 7:PM, MLT), (7:PM 8:PM, District School of Instruction @ John Darling No. 154).
- 6TH Stated Communication of J. F. Swartsel Lodge, Dinner @ 6:30 PM, Lodge Opens at 7:30 PM.
- 11th 6PM Officer Meeting followed by Degree Practice @ J. F. Swartsel.
- E.A. Degree for (Mohammed Khalid Aldaraji, James Richard Carner, Jr. & James Douglas Lee), May 13 @ J. F. Swartsel Lodge, Meal @ 6:30 PM, Degree @ 7:30.
- 14th 7:PM Masonic Park Board Meeting @ Tampa 240.
- 15th W:. Marty Greif's PR and Publicity webinar on ZOOM. Begins 9am. Registration: jfswartsel251.org/pr
- 17th 7:30 PM, Friendship Chapter No. 209 Stated Meeting.
- 18th **6:30 7:30 Degree Practice @ J. F. Swartsel.**
- 19th York Rite Practicing at J.F. Swartsel.
- 20TH Stated Communication of J. F. Swartsel Lodge. (Election for Treasurer), Dinner @ 6:30 PM, Lodge Opens at 7:30 PM.
- 21st 6:30 7:30 Master Mason Association of Hillsborough County.
- 22nd 8:30 Noon, Open Books @ Tampa Scottish Rite.
- **25th 6:30 7:30 Degree Practice.**
- 31st 192ND, ANNUAL GRAND COMMUNICATION, MONDAY, MAY 31ST THRU WEDNESDAY, JUNE 2ND, 2021.

From the Worthy Matron: Elizabeth McAbee

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

May will be an active month in Friendship Chapter. Our annual School of Instruction will be held on May 3 (preceded by a covered dish dinner), and we will honor our District's 2021-2022 Grand Appointments on May 17 when we will also have programs to honor mothers and Memorial Day.

The Grand Chapter session in St. Augustine during the week of April 19-23 was well attended by members of Friendship Chapter. Those who will be serving Grand Chapter this year include: Suzan Moore, Credentials Committee; Ivy Cranford, Credentials Committee; Claudine Rogers, Chairman of the Main Committee of E.S.T.A.R.L.; Susan Ferrell, District Chairman of E.S.T.A.R.L.; Elaine Howell, District 16 Chairman S.H.E.A.F.; Judi Dorn, District 16 Chairman of the Worthy Grand Matron's Special Project, Cancer Research; and Gene McAbee, Forget-Me-Not Special Appointment.

Masons in good standing and any female relatives who are related by birth, marriage or adoption 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. Our members are also happy to provide information and petitions by request.

Praying you're blessed...

Fraternally,

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

Worshipful Master: Brother Sam McPherson

My Brothers, how good and pleasant it is for Brethren to dwell together, our Lodge is beginning to resemble time past! Brothers are putting the pandemic behind; we are all getting vaccinated, and soon the pandemic will be a thing of the past. Let us keep it going, looking forward to seeing each of you in Lodge!

I want to congratulate Brothers Ocegueda and Tanner on continue their journey in Freemasonry. In Masonry as in life, something new is discovered every day. Staying thirsty for more Light should be ever present in your mind. In our Lodge alone there are hundreds of years of Masonry... take advantage of it.

My Brothers, J.F. Swartsel Lodge has received Dispensation from M.W. Thomas L. Turlington, Jr. to hold an election at a Stated Communication of J.F. Swartsel Lodge no.251 for the purpose of electing a Treasurer as the duly elected Treasurer resigned, and to fill other such vacancies that may be caused by such election. The Lodge may accept nominations for the election up to the opening of said Stated Communication and due and proper written notice must be made to the membership. This Election will take place on May 20, 2021 at J.F.Swartsel Lodge no 251 regular Stated Meeting.

We will not have our monthly May Lodge visit due to Grand Communication. Thank you to the Brothers who supported our visit to Tampa 240 Lodge in April; a good time was had by all!

This month talk is: The Acacia Tree

The Acacia tree is found in the area known as Palestine during ancient times, but today it is found all over Africa. Acacia looks like the mulberry tree, can grow to well over one hundred feet high, and is a hard wood. The gum obtained from it is known as Arabic.

Acacia is a sacred Hebrew wood known in the scripture as "Shittah." The ark of the covenant was made from it.

Acacia is part of our initiation as Master Masons and represents the immortality of the soul, as the soul lives on after our bodies have been put to rest.

Acacia can be a bush, tree, or a grove of trees. If you cut it down it grows back, if you burn it, it grows back. If you try to dig it up and leave one root it will grow back. Acacia can live through floods, droughts, and bad soil conditions. There is little doubt as to the reason Acacia is our symbol of immortality. (William R. Fischer)

Stay safe my Brothers,

McPherson WM

From the Senior Warden: Brother Ray Ciunci

Greetings from the West Brothers!!

Hello Brothers – we are continuing to move through the year very quickly! We are already through the first quarter. The distribution of the COVID vaccine continues to move along. I have received my second dose as have many Brothers in the Lodge. With more and more Brothers receiving their 2nd dose, if you have not done so already, I encourage you to do so soon. As the numbers of Brothers who are fully vaccinated are increasing, I expect that Brothers will start returning. I have seen a few already and was very pleased to see them!

Please continue to pray for our Military, First Responders, Medical Personnel, and Brothers who are under the weather. Our past DDGM, Chuck Osborne, continues to recover from successful bypass surgery and so we pray for his continued speedy recovery as well as the recovery of our ailing JW Br. Wade Angel. We have had a few other Brothers dealing with a few minor injuries but are now back and on the mend.

Out Lodge continues to be active obligating new Brothers. Seems like every other month we are having an EA Degree.

This month we paid a visit to Tampa 240 Lodge and had a great evening of good food and fellowship.

Brother Angel, our JW, has been dishing out some **very** tasty meals! Each meeting the meal is first class, and he is turning out to be quite a chef. It would be great for some of the Brothers who have not been at the Lodge in a bit to stop by, say hello and sample the cuisine. Our SS, brother Dellis, helped out at our last Stated Communication with a super meal of grouper **that he caught himself!** The food is great, and we would love to see you all again. We are all masking, hand sanitizing, and distancing so we are keeping it safe.

We will be going to the Grand Communication this month – it's my first one and I am looking forward to it!

The following is an interesting article about some masonic date references that are often mentioned in Lodge.

Brother Ray Ciunci, SW

ORDER	TIME TO ADD OR SUBTRACT	NAME	ABBREVIATION	EXAMPLE	MORE INFORMATION
Blue Lodge	Add 4,000 years to the Christian era	ANNO LUCIS -YEAR OF THE LIGHT	A. L.	For A. D. 1930, it would be: A. L. 5930	This is not for the reason that they believe Freemasonry to be coeval with creation, but because of its symbolic reference to the Light of Masonry.
Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite	Add 3760 years to the Christian era	ANNO MUNDI, year of the world,	A.M	For A. D. 1930, 5690	The Jewish calendar is used. Sometimes the Hebrew year is used, which begins on the first of the month Tisri, corresponding to September 17th, V. E., using the initials A. H. ANNO HEBRAICO-Hebrew year.
Royal Arch	Add 530 to the Christian era	ANNO INVENTIONIS, the year of the Discovery.	A. I.	For A. D. 1930, it would be A. I. 2460,	Date from the year in which Zerubbabel began to build the Second 'Temple,
	Add 1913 to the Christian era	ANNO BENEFACIO	A.B.	For A.D. 1930 it would be A.B. 3843	Anno Benefacio is the "Year of Blessing" of Abraham by Melchizedek.
Royal and Select Masters	Add 1,000 to the Christian era	ANNO DEPOSITIONIS, the year of the Deposit.	A. Dep.	For A. D. 1930, it would be A. Dep. 2930,	When not using the common Masonic date, ANNO LUCIS, date from the year in which King Solomon's Temple was completed.
Knights Templar	Subtract 1118 from the present year.	ANNO ORDINIS, in the year of the Order.	A.O.	For A.D. 1930, it would be A.O. 812	Date from the organization of the order-A. D. 1118.

From the Junior Warden: Brother Wade Angel

As I continue to recover, I thank the Brothers who have had me in their prayers of late. I would also like to thank Brs. Dellis, Circhirillo, Martin, and Worshipful Valdez for their invaluable assistance with the food throughout my time as JW.

We have had some very informative Masonic Educations at our meetings so far this year, including the most recent by Brother John Nagy, and I thank the many Brothers who have stepped up and presented subjects that they are passionate about or found interesting. No one man knows everything, but every man knows something... and the interesting diversity in Masonic Light shining in the meetings is one of the many reasons our Lodge is so strong! If you'd like to see Br. Nagy speak at greater length, he will be delivering a 30-minute lecture on the Three Ruffians at PTF United Lodge No. 153 on Tuesday, May 18th.

Thank you to everyone for all of their support this year, both Masonically and otherwise. I look forward to seeing you all again soon!

From the Senior Deacon/Mentor: Brother Dennis Martin

So you've made the decision to become a Mason - congratulations! Now that you've petitioned to join the Lodge, come along and have dinner with us so you can check us out and realize that you wish you'd done this a long time ago!

When you do have dinner with us, you'll often see Brothers offering to clear trays from the tables in front of others - the Brother who's clearing the trays away from in front of the newest initiate may be a Past Master - no matter, because we meet upon the level - there's no rank among Brothers.

As soon as you can, get involved. It's often said that you'll get far more out of Masonry than you put in. That's true and your investment in time can really 'pay off'. Don't be content to be a sideliner, or God Forbid, a MINO [pronounced minnow - Mason In Name Only]. Become involved in running your Lodge, taking part in ritual when you are able and in any community affairs your Lodge sponsors. Remember, the Lodge is not the building, it's the Brothers within.

We are all travelling to the East, towards the Light - let Your light shine forth!

York Rite Lessons

Companions and Sir Knights,

What is the symbolic meaning of FOREIGN COUNTRY?

Thousands have heard this expression, without dreaming of its hidden and spiritual meaning, or if they think of any meaning at all, they content themselves by interpreting it as referring to the actual travels of Masons after the completion of the temple, into the surrounding country in search of employment, whose wages were to be gold and silver which they could earn by the exercise of their skill in the operative art. But the true symbolic meaning of the foreign country into which the Master Mason is to travel is far different. The symbolism of this life terminates with the Master's degree. The completion of that degree is a lesson of death and the resurrection to a future life. Heaven, the higher state of existence after death is the Foreign Country, where the true word, or divine truth, not given in this, is to be received, and where the Master Mason is to enter, and there he is to receive his wages in the reception of that truth which can be imparted only in that better land, 2 Co 5: 1

"Fortune favors the prepared mind" Louis Pasteur

What is the symbolism of the East, South, and West Gates?

In the system of Freemasonry, the Temple of Solomon is represented as having a gate on the east, west, and south sides but none on the north. In reference to this historical Temple of Jerusalem, such a representation is wholly incorrect. In the walls of the building itself there were no places of entrance except the door of the porch, which gave admission to the house. But in the surrounding courts there were gates at all of the points of the compass. The Masonic idea of the Temple is, however, symbolic. The Temple is to the Speculative Mason only a symbol, not an historical building, and the gates are imaginary and symbolic also. They are, in the first place, symbols of the progress of the sun in its daily course, raising in the east, culminating to the meridian in the south; it is the object of the third degree to illustrate the symbols of the three stages of life; youth, manhood, and old age, or, more properly of birth, life, and death. Jn 2: 19

"The highest reward for a person's toil is not what they get for it, but what they become by it." John Ruskin

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?

In April, the Brothers of JFS traveled to District 20 to visit our Brethren of Tampa 240! The food and fellowship were great as always; thank you to all from 251 who continue to live up to the moniker "Traveling Men".



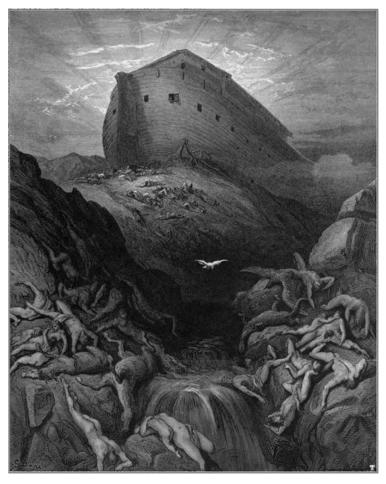
A number of our Brothers (including two of our EAs) traveled to Historic Hillsborough Lodge No. 25 to watch two of their candidates walk in "Misters" and walk out "Brothers". Congratulations to H25 for putting on a great Degree... but it would have been worth attending for the Key Lime dessert alone!



At April's Master Mason Association meeting, the Brothers of JFS gave the rest of District 19 and 20 a proper shellacking, bringing 75% more Brothers than the next closest Lodge! The streak continues...
Thank you to everyone who came out!



Masonic Education – The First two Pillars



Freemasons are familiar with the pillars of Solomon's temple, biblically these are not the first two pillars mentioned...

First some back story leading to the first two pillars. Genesis, in part, tells the story of Cain and Abel. Biblically they are the first sons of Adam and Eve after they leave the Garden of Eden. Cain slew Abel and Cain was cast out to never live in the sight of God again. After Cain's departure Adam and Eve have another son Seth. It is the offspring of Cain and Seth that leads us to the building of the first two pillars. Biblical scholars are somewhat undecided on this subject.

In the first version of the creation of the two pillars, Seth's descendants, including Enoch and Lamech, led virtuous lives. It should be noted that Cain had descendants also named Enoch and Lamech. The descendants of Seth are credited with developing astronomy, the division of time into weeks, months and years (both solar and lunar) and to have evolved Hebrew Characters. They were warned by a prophecy that the

World would end. To protect the knowledge that they had developed they inscribed the knowledge on two pillars. Both had identical knowledge in the hopes that one or the other would survive the destruction of the World. The first was made of brick, the other of stone.

In the other version it is the descendants of Cain, the children of Lamech, who actually are the ones who develop the knowledge and inscribe that information on the pillars. Lamech married two women, the first was Adah. Adah gave birth to Jubal and Jabal. Jubal is said to have been the father of stringed instruments and pipes. Jabal was the father of "those who live in tents and raise livestock." Lamech's second wife was Zilla, she gave birth to Tubal-Cain who "forged all kinds of tools out of bronze and iron". Tubal-Cain also had a sister Naamah (sometimes Na'amah) who is believed to have been the first person to undertake weaving. Again, the information is inscribed on the brick and the stone pillars when there is a prophecy of the destruction of the World.

In both versions of the story, the method of the destruction that is Naaman not clear in the prophecy. It is either inundation (flooding or a deluge) or conflagration (fire or burning). In both stories that is the motivation for inscribing the information on the two pillars to survive inundation and conflagration. The concept of preserving knowledge would later apply to the pillars of King Solomon's Temple. Regardless of which antediluvian (before the biblical flood) story is ascribed to, the original pillars were meant to safeguard the knowledge that had been accumulated prior to the destruction of the World. Just as knowledge is believed to have been stored in the pillars of King Solomon's Temple.

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"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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