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Our Election of Lodge Officers will be on December 2nd, and our Installation of Lodge Officers will be January 8th @ 10am.
We hope you have a safe and happy Holiday season!

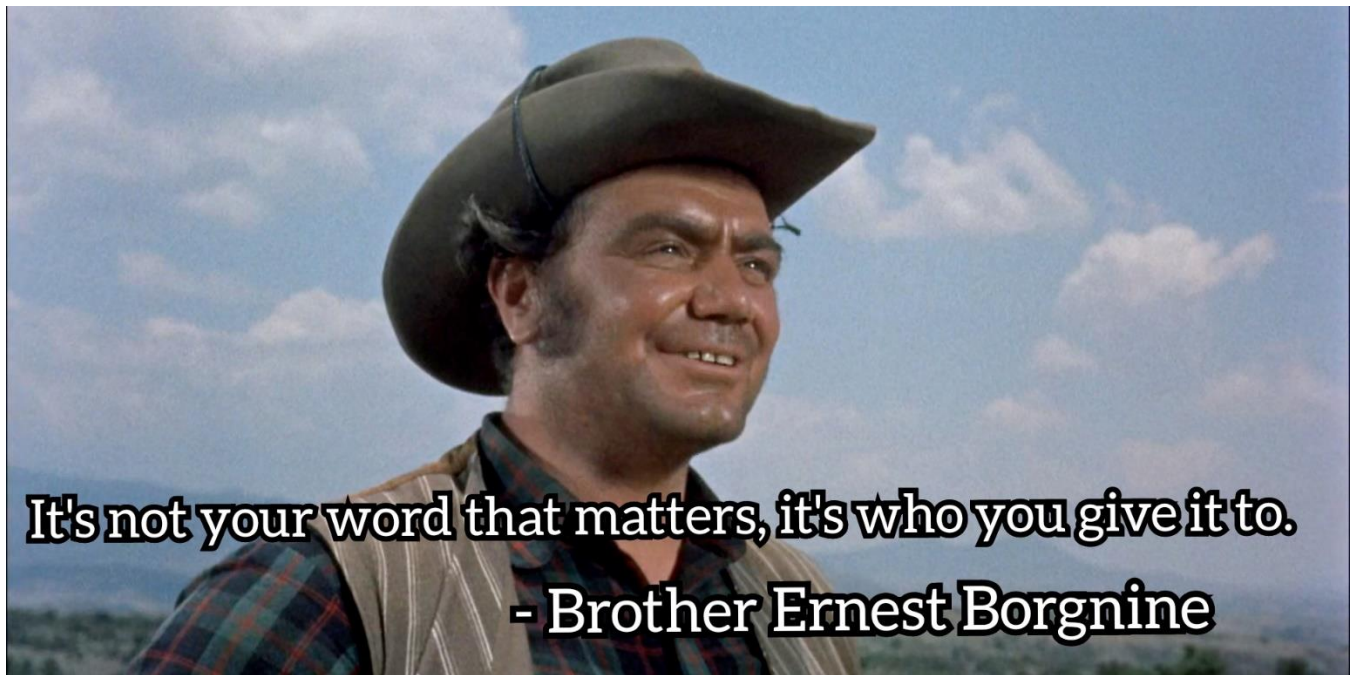
Your Catechism Instructors for the three symbolic degrees in Freemasonry are:

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

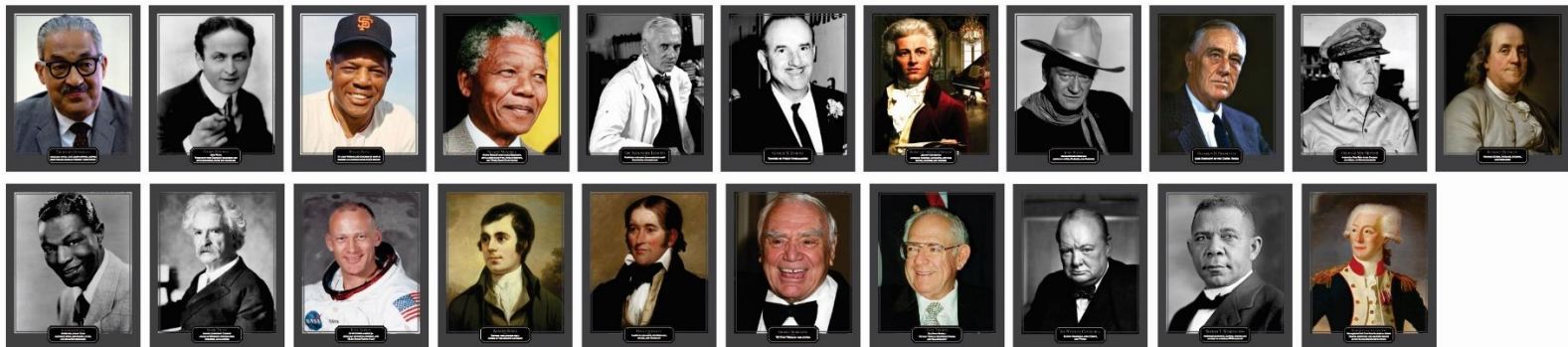


Who does J. F. Swartsel Lodge support in the community?

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
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.

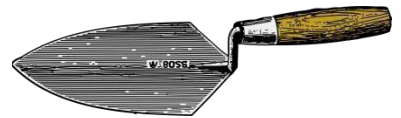
A very special thank you to all of J.F. Swartsel's Past Masters - Who laid the foundation for us to build upon

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

1957 W • Randolph Dey - 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

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 W ∴ Jeffrey Thomas Sklet
Secretary W ∴ David Bruce Lambert Sr.
Chaplain W ∴ Jerry Marvin Snell Jr.
Marshall W ∴ Stephen Douglas Edson
Senior Deacon Brother Brian Andrew Reach (Pro tem)
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.

Brethren,
Look at your Dues Cards to see that you have a current card.

Calendar of Important Lodge Dates: December 2021.

- 1st 6:PM – 7:PM, MLT @ John Darling 154 Then 7:PM – 8:PM District School of Instruction.**
- 2nd Stated Communication of J. F. Swartsel Lodge, (Lodge Election Night), Dinner @ 6:30 PM, Lodge Opens at 7:30 PM.**
- 7th 6:30 – 7:30 Degree Practice @ J. F. Swartsel.**
- 10th 7:PM - Masonic Park Board Meeting @ Tampa 240.**
- 14th 6P WM-Elect Ciunci's 1st Officer Meeting, Degree Practice to follow @ J. F. Swartsel.**
- 15th 6:30 – 7:30, Commandry Practice @ J. F. Swartsel 251**
- 16th Stated Communication of J. F. Swartsel Lodge, Dinner @ 6:30 PM, Lodge Opens at 7:30 PM.**
- 17th 6:30 – 7:30 Master Mason Association of Hillsborough County.**
- 20th 7:30 - Friendship Chapter No. 209 meeting.**
- 21st 6:30 – 7:30 INSTALLATION PRACTICE @ J. F. Swartsel.**
- 28th Canceled Degree Practice, (No Degree Practice).**
- 30th Family & Awards Night @ J. F. Swartsel 251.**

Installation, January 8, 2022 @ J. F. Swartsel No. 251

From the Worthy Matron: Elizabeth McAbee

  
NOEL HALLELUJAH MERRY CHRISTMAS HAPPY NEW YEAR
Noel Hallelujah Merry Christmas Happy New Year

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We were delighted to welcome veterans, including a neighbor of one of our OES Sisters, for dinner on November 1. Attendees had the opportunity to share a little about their or their family member's service and everyone enjoyed a wonderful meal and sweet fellowship.

We will welcome Grands and Past Grands to serve in our stations and as escorts at our December 20th meeting. This evening will also focus on E.S.T.A.R.L. (Eastern Star Training and Religious Leadership). This fund provides scholarship money for individuals going into ministry.

Additionally, members of our District will attend the Idlewild Christmas presentation again this year to benefit E.S.T.A.R.L. **Lodge Brothers and their families are welcome to join us for this social event at 4 pm on Saturday afternoon, December 11. Tickets are \$25. Please contact me to purchase tickets.**

Masons in good standing and their female relatives are eligible for membership in the Order of the Eastern Star. Information and petitions are available by request.

May the Lord bless you with the gift of His perfect peace this Christmas and a sense of His presence in your heart every day.

Praying you're blessed...

Fraternally,

Elizabeth C McAbee
Worthy Matron
813/494-6210

Worshipful Master: Brother Sam McPherson

Brothers,

My Brothers, my year in the East is nearing the end, and it has been an honor and a privilege to serve as your Worshipful Master for 2021. I want to thank the Elected and appointed Officers; without your support and hard work my year would not have been successful.

This year we revised our web site, had cleanup day at the Lodge, displayed the missing man table, visited Lodges, proposed a new elevator, reconnected with our missing Brothers, gave to McKittrick Elementary, and completed the electric range and A/C projects in the kitchen that were started in W. Feldman's year

To the Brothers of the Lodge and the Fraternity, thank you for all your support and encouragement throughout the year. I would also like to give a special thank you to my Brother Secretary, without your help, encouragement, and direction, the year would have been a lot more stressful. The stipend we give is not enough; thank you W. Lambert.

When you read this, election should be over, so I give my sincere congratulations to our new Worshipful Master-Elect Raymond Ciunci, and wish him and his Officers a great year. He will have his first Officer meeting 12/14/21.

It seems only a few months passed since we were talking about the holidays, and it's already December! This is the time of the year that we should remember to be extra careful while out and about as this is the Holiday season... the time people are careless and nonattentive to the surrounding. Let be attentive. This past month November we had activities in the Lodge. The month started with the Eastern Star hosting Veteran's dinner for all veteran on the 1st. On the 8th we had WM recognition night which had a great turnout, the meal was good, and we had a very enjoyable evening. Thank you for your support brothers!

We had our Farmers Degree on the 13th, where we raised eight Brothers wow!!! It was a great Masonic day with more than 35 Brothers on the sideline alone! We had five courtesy Brothers from Roe Fulkerson 299: Brothers Fritz G. Antoine, Antonio A. Sa, Cesar Temes Sr, Austin J. Root and J Tan. Thank you WM Temes for the honor and privilege, and from J.F. Swartsel Lodge, Brs. Jared R. Moren, Walter B. Price Jr. and D. Matthew Shawver. Congratulation Brothers, I look forward to seeing you in Lodge meetings and being active members. A great meal was shared by all, prepared by our very own Lambert family...thank you!

We have Family night on the 30th of December.

I wish a Happy Birthday to everyone who celebrates one this month, and that you have many, more enjoy your day. Let us keep our Brothers lifted to the G.A.O.T.U.. Get well; we look forward to your return to the Lodge.

This month short talk is the Acacia and the Blue Lodge enjoy:

Acacia by William R. Fischer

The Acacia tree is found in the area known as Palestine during ancient times, 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 to the reason Acacia is our symbol of immortality.

BLUE LODGE by William R. Fischer

Blue is emphatically the color of Masonry. It is the color of the vault of heaven, which embraces and covers the whole globe. If a Mason does anything under the blue sky of heaven, he should behave in a just and moral manner. He is bound by his obligation to act under the blue sky in the same manner that he does in the Lodge.

Have a safe and enjoyable Holiday!

Fraternally,

McPherson WM

From the Senior Warden: Brother Ray Ciunci

My Brothers,

We have reached the end of the year and soon we will be 2022.

I want to thank our Worshipful Master Sam McPherson for doing a fine job in leading us through the many challenges we faced. I am almost done preparing for my year in the East and look forward to serving all of you. I'll have a fine line to assist me. God bless all of you and may the blessings of Heaven rest upon us.

The following is a continuing look at masonic related definitions – some are basic, but most are informative. Hope you enjoy!

MAKING A MASON "AT SIGHT": By a Grand Master's prerogative, some constitutional requirement is set aside—usually the ballot, and a man is made a Master Mason without waiting or instruction between degrees.

MASONIC AGES: The age of an Entered Apprentice is said to be three years (the symbol of peace or perfect harmony); that of a Fellowcraft, five years (the symbol of active life); and that of a Master Mason, seven years (the symbol of perfection).

MERIDIAN: The position of the sun at noon.

MORIAH: A hill in Jerusalem on which the Temple of Solomon was built.

MOSAIC PAVEMENT: Tessellated pavement or checkered floor. An inlay floor composed of black and white squares.

MOUTH TO EAR: The method whereby the esoteric work of Freemasonry is passed on from one Mason to another, or from one Mason to the candidate who is qualified to receive such information.

MYSTIC TIE: Spiritual tie not easily broken; fellowship among Masons.

NEITHER NAKED NOR CLOTHED: Neither unclothed, or defenseless, nor clothed and self-sufficient.

NOBLES: Members of the Mystic Shrine.

OATH: A solemn affirmation, in the name of God, that what one testifies is true.

OBLIGATION: A promise or pledge of obedience. The Mason takes an obligation, not an oath, that he will not depart from the promises he makes.

OBLONG SQUARE: A right angle with one side longer than the other.

ORALLY: Aloud, spoken.

ORIENTAL CHAIR: The seat of the Master in the East; the Oriental Chair of King Solomon.

ORNAMENTS OF A LODGE: The Mosaic Pavement, Indented Tessel, and Blazing Star.

ORNAN: Name of Jebusite from whom David purchased a threshing floor in Jerusalem in which King Solomon's temple was built. This was previously the site of the altar

From the Junior Warden: Brother Wade Angel

Nothing from the South

From the Senior Deacon: Brother Brian Reach

My Brothers, first let me say that I am so grateful for the band of Brothers that helped with the marathon Master Mason Degree on Nov. 13th, including all the Brothers who filled the side lines! The Lodge literally could not do this work without you!!! Thank you!! A special shout out and thank you to the Brother who solved the problem with getting eight Brothers around our Altar.

I am personally looking forward to this year's Holiday Season. Nancy and I have not been able to celebrate with our family and close friends in a very long time, and I am going to enjoy them to the MAX! I hope you are able to do the same with your loved ones!

Finally, I would like to say that I am looking forward to 2022 and all the new challenges it brings as your Junior Warden. Thank you for your confidence in me! I hope to serve you good meals that will bring you back for more. Personally, I have high hopes, because Nancy is a great cook and she will be coaching me!

Have a safe and Happy Holliday Season!!

Brian Reach, SD

York Rite Lessons

Companions and Sir Knights,

What does A. U. M. mean or signify?

The triliteral name of God, which is as sacred among the Hindus as is the Tetragrammaton among the Jews, is composed of Sanskrit letters, sounding A. U. M. A stands for Creator: U for the preserver: M for the destroyer or Brahma, Vishnu, and Shiva.

‘We are not rich by what we possess but rather by what we can do without.’ Immanuel Kant

How has the phrase “cable tow’s length been used in Masonry?

“According to the ancient laws of Freemasonry every Brother must attend his Lodge if within the length of a cable tow, or a cable’s length,” to be three miles for an Entered Apprentice.

“I am a reflection of my past generations and the essence of those following after me.” Martha Kinney

What are the Cardinal Points and what do they represent?

East: Wisdom, West: Strength: South: Beauty, North: Darkness.”

“I shall grow old, but never lose life’s zest, because the road’s last turn will be the best.” Henry Van Dyke

What is the symbolism of the Apron?

There is not one of the symbols of Speculative Masonry more important in its teaching in its history than the lambskin or white leather apron. Its lessons commence at an early period in the Mason’s progress, and is impressed on his memory as the first gift which he receives, the first symbol which is explained to him, and the first tangible evidence which he possesses of his admission into the Fraternity. The color of a Mason’s apron should be pure and unspotted white. The Lamb has always been considered as an appropriate emblem of innocence, and hence we are taught, in the ritual of the first degree that “by the lambskin,” the Mason is reminded that purity of life and rectitude of conduct which is so essentially necessary to his gaining admission into the Celestial Lodge above, where the Supreme Architect of the Universe forever presides. 1 P 1; 19

“Laughter heals a lot of hurts.” Madelene L’Engle

Who built the Ark of the Covenant?

The Ark of Covenant was a chest originally constructed by Moses at God’s command, in which were kept the two tables of stone, on which were engraved the ten commandments. It was at first deposited in the most sacred place in the tabernacle, and afterwards placed by Solomon in the Sanctum Sanctorum of the Temple, but was lost upon the destruction of that building by the Chaldeans. Ex 25: 10

“If we are to guard against ignorance and remain free, it is the responsibility of every American to be informed.” Thomas Jefferson

Zealously,

Most Excellent Companion

James F. (Robby) Robertson, KYCH

Grand High Priest

Grand Chapter of RAM of Florida

Laus Deo

Your humble and obedient servant





11/4: The Brothers of J.F. Swartsel Lodge showed up, both in sheer numbers (over 30 in attendance) and in generosity, as we raised over \$1,200 in donations to help provide better Thanksgiving dinners to families of McKittrick Elementary. At the meeting we voted to advance our Officers by acclamation. Congratulations all!



11/8: Worshipful Master Sam McPherson was honored at the Scottish Rite Center. The Brothers of JFS showed up in force to support our WM, and our own W:. Jeff Sklet found himself honored in the MILLIONAIRE CLUB. The event was MC'd by M:.W:. Hoover and it was a great evening to be had by all!





11/12: We made our presentation of over \$1,200.00 in Publix gift cards to McKittrick Elementary. Principal Cline and the front office staff were happy to see us, and thanked everyone for their generosity and continued support!



11/13: What a fantastic Degree! Our Annual Farmer's Degree featured the Raising of 8 Brothers, and was attended by over 50 Masons! Special thank you to Roe Fulkerson Lodge no. 299, who traveled in mass to join us for this Degree, and bring us candidates to Raise as courtesy work. Br. Nagy knocked the music out of the park, RW Chavez nailed the lecture, we had all 12 FCs for the 2nd section and Full Costumes, and W Jeff Sklet brought us home with a great Charge! Everyone had a great time during, and an amazing meal afterwards prepared by the Lambert family. Thank you to everyone who made this a special day for our newest Master Masons!



The Five Points of Fellowship

By Robert Morris

Joyful task it is, dear brothers
Thus to take upon the lip
With full heart, and fitting gesture,
All our points of fellowship.
Foot and knee, breast, hand, and cheek
Each a measured part shall speak:
Speak of answering mercy's call;
Speak of prayer for Masons all;
Speak of keeping secrets duly;
Speak of stretching strong hand truly;
Speak of whispering the unruly.
Foot to foot: 'tis mercy's mandate,
When is heard the plaintive sigh,
Hungry, thirsty, homeless, naked,
On the wings of aid to fly;
Hasten, mitigate the grief --
Hasten, bear him quick relief!
Quick with bread to feed the hungry;
Quick with raiment for the naked;
Quick with shelter for the homeless;
Quick with heart's deep sympathy.
Knee to knee: in silence praying,
Lord, give listening ear this day!
Every earthly stain confessing,
For all tempted Masons pray!
Perish envy, perish hate,
For all Masons supplicate.
Bless them, Lord upon the ocean;
Bless them perishing in the desert;
Bless them falling 'neath temptation
Bless them when about to die!
Breast to breast: in holy casket
At life's center strongly held,
Every sacred thing entrusted,
Sealed by faith's unbroken seal;
What you promised God to shield
Suffer, die, but never yield.
Never yield whate'er the trial;
Never yield whate'er the number;

Never yield through foully threatened,
Even at the stroke of death.
Hand to back: A brother falling --
His misfortune is too great,
Stretch the generous hand, sustain him,
Quick, before it is too late.
Like a strong, unfaltering prop,
Hold the faltering brother up.
Hold him up; stand like a column;
Hold him up: there's good stuff in him;
Hold him with his head toward Heaven;
Hold him with the lion's grip.
Cheek to cheek: O, when the tempter
Comes, a brother's soul to win,
With a timely whisper warn him
Of the dark and deadly sin.
Extricate him from the snare,
Save him with fraternal care.
Save him -- Heavenly powers invoke you --
Save him -- man is worth the saving
Save him -- breathe your spirit in him
As you'd have your God save you.
This completes the obligation;
Brother, lest you let it slip,
Fasten on tenacious memory
All our points of Fellowship;
Foot and knee, breast, hand, and cheek --
Foot and knee, breast, hand, and cheek.



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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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