



Published monthly Volume XCVII Issue No. 5 – May A.D. 2022, A.L. 6022

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MM Degree at JFS May 3rd, and we're visiting
our new Holyrood roommates on May 12th,
right here at J.F. Swartsel Lodge!

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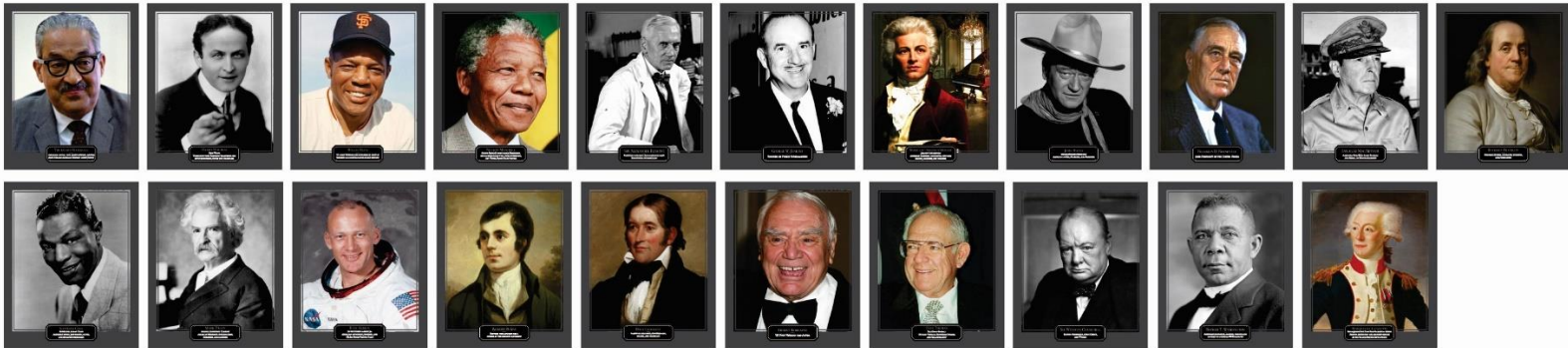
Who does J. F. Swartsel Lodge support in the community?

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

There is only one
thing in the world
worse than being
talked about, and
that is not being
talked about.

- Brother Oscar Wilde

If they could do the things they did then,



imagine the things that we can do now.

Thank you to all of our Past Masters - Who laid the foundation for us to build upon

**The Past Masters of J.F. Swartsel and Community Lodge © who 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 - 1985/1997 W • Harold A. Glisson © - 1986 W • Gary F. Gentry
1987/1994 W • R. Willard Brown - 1988 W • Floyd G. Kirk © - 1992 W • Floyd A. Dozier - 1992 W • Michael P. Byers ©
1993 W • Winston A. Williams © - 1986 W • Gary F. Gentry 1995 R • W • Donald R. Bell, PDDGM
1995 W • Walter T. Beaver © - 1996 W • Robert Thibodeaux © - 1998 W • Gary A. Richey - 1998 W • Christopher Boles ©
1999 W • David B. Lambert, Sr. - 1999/2010/2013 W • Steven G. Whitmer © - 2000 W • David B. Lambert, II
2000 W • Kenneth C. Tucker © - 2001 W • James R. Lambert - 2001 W • John W. Warren © - 2002 W • Gregory A. Lambert
2003 W • Joseph E. Fara, Sr. - 2004/2007/2011 W • Steven C. Whidden © - 2005/2006 W • Robert L. Herman, Sr. ©
2007 W • William L. Boortz - 2008/2013 W • Gregory L. Savage - 2008/2012 W • Keith A. Crews ©
2009 W • Drew M. Keenan - 2009 W • Matthew K. Jones © - 2011 W • Richard D. Sego - 2012/2019 W • Jerry M. Snell, Jr.
2014 W • Jeffrey T. Sklet - 2014/2015/2018/2019 W • Jerry A. Haywood © - 2015 R • W • Charles C. Osborne, PDDGM
2016 W • Danilo O. Valdez - 2016 W • John Northrop © - 2017 R • W • Charles J. "Sam" Pesola, PDDGM
2017 W • David Jones © - 2018 - W • Martin A. Greif - 2020 W • Adam S. Feldman - 2021 W • Samuel McPherson



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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!

Your 2022 J. F. Swartsel Officers are as follows:

Worshipful Master W ∴ Raymond Joseph Ciunci
Senior Warden Brother Wade Edward Angel
Junior Warden Brother Brian Andrew Reach
Treasurer W ∴ Jeffrey Thomas Sklet
Secretary W ∴ David Bruce Lambert Sr.
Chaplain W ∴ Jerry Marvin Snell Jr.
Marshall W ∴ Stephen Douglas Edson
Senior Deacon W ∴ Danilo Orlando Valdez
Junior Deacon Brother Demetrios Thomas Dellis
Senior Steward Brother Joe Circhirillo
Junior Steward Brother Thomas Martin Sheehan
Tyler W ∴ Bahram (Tony) Hedayat
Musician Brother John Nagy
Historian W ∴ Samuel McPherson



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,

If you have changed your address, please give me a call @ (813) 838-7705 or email me at dlambert7907@gmail.com so I can update your records. Also check your Dues Card to see if it is current.

Calendar of Important Lodge Dates: May 2022.

- 3rd Master Mason Degree, Bro. Tanner. Dinner @ 6:30 PM, Lodge Opens at 7:30 PM.**
- 4th (6:PM – 7:PM, MLT), (7:PM – 8:PM, District School of Instruction @ John Darling No. 154).**
- 5th Stated Communication of J. F. Swartsel Lodge, Dinner @ 6:30 PM, Lodge Opens at 7:30 PM.**
- 9th Boy Scouts using downstairs.**
- 10th 6:PM, Officers Meeting.**
- 12th MONTHLY LODGE VISIT: Holyrood Lodge No. 257 Stated Meeting @ J. F. Swartsel 251, Dinner @ 6:30 PM, Lodge Opens at 7:30 PM.**
- 13th 7:PM - Masonic Park Board Meeting @ Tampa 240. (Check for ZOOM meeting)**
- 16th 7:30 - Friendship Chapter No. 209 meeting.**
- 16th Zoom MLT Modules 11-15 @ 6pm. Must Pre-register. Link is on our Facebook page and Lodge calendar**
- 17th 6:30 – 7:30 Degree Practice @ J. F. Swartsel.**
- 18th 6:30 – 8:00 Commandry Practice @ J. F. Swartsel No. 251.**
- 19th Stated Communication of J. F. Swartsel Lodge, Dinner @ 6:30 PM, Lodge Opens at 7:30 PM.**
- 20th Third Friday FULL Menu Fish Fry at J.F. Swartsel Lodge – Serving from 5 - 8: PM.**
- 23rd Boy Scouts using downstairs.**
- 24th 6:30 – 7:30 Degree Practice @ J. F. Swartsel.**
- 24th Scholarship presentation at Land O Lakes High School. Ceremony begins at 6pm**
- 27th 6:30 – 7:30 Master Mason Association of Hillsborough County @ John Darling No. 154.**
- 28th 9:AM – Noon, Open Books at Zone School of Instruction @ John Darling No. 154.**
- 30th 30th thru June 1st the 193 Grand Communication @ Rosen Plaza Hotel, Orlando, Florida.**
- 30th Memorial Day.**
- 31st 6:30 – 7:30 Degree Practice @ J. F. Swartsel.**

Worshipful Master: Brother Ray Ciunci

Greetings from the East Brothers!!

Some highlights from this month are as follows.

- We attended a lodge visit to PTF United Lodge #153 and had a great time. Their Lodge is in a building that has been completely refurbished and is beautiful on the inside.
- We had our first Fish Fry since the beginning of the pandemic, and it was an overwhelming success on several levels. First the volume of fish sold was outstanding. We ran out of fish twice and had to buy more. Secondly, the dining room was packed, and we turned a several hundred-dollar profit.
- We gave our contractor the green light to proceed with our elevator project. Pursuant to that the Project Engineer came by the Lodge and did the evaluation needed to do a plan and apply for a permit.
- This month we will be submitting a \$500 Scholarship award to the winner at Land o Lakes HS award ceremony. We have also done the same to the lucky recipient at Steinbrenner High.
- Also, this month we will be visiting Joshua House which is an organization that provides temporary shelter to orphans.
- Finally, we have applied to get on the schedule to serve food for Metropolitan Ministries, an organization that provides food and clothing to poor families in Tampa. If approved, that should be scheduled in July.

Lots going on so come in and join us.

Fraternally,

Ray Ciunci WM

From the Senior Warden: Brother Wade Angel

I enjoyed Worshipful Andrews' Masonic education on the history of our Lodge. It was obvious that he had put some time and research into his presentation. It got me thinking about my Grandfather's Lodge in Ohio. I went on their website the next day to do some research. I do this from time to time and always find things I have never seen before. The Lodge has an extensive archive dating back to the Lodges inception in 1868. There are notes on almost every stated communication. Not much changes over the years as far as the business of the Lodge but seeing the old family names from my old hometown is an interesting read. For instance, they had a scandal in 1928 that almost broke up the Lodge. The Worshipful Master proposed raising the annual dues from \$4 to \$6. All hell broke loose. They eventually compromised on \$4.50. Today their dues are all the way up to \$75 a year.

Hearing Worshipful Andrews presentation got me thinking that we need to try to learn more about our history and preserve it for the future. It also encourages me to ask these questions: What can we do as a Lodge that will be noteworthy for history moving forward? How can we document what we do to promote our Lodge? How do we make a mark in the hearts of our community to make us memorable? What will the Legacy be of J. F. Swartsel Lodge in the future? We lost everything in a fire, but we continue to write our history today. What will be read about us by future Brothers? How can we inspire them to do even more? Just things to think about.

Fraternally Yours,

Brother Wade Angel

From the Junior Warden: Brother Brian Reach

Not much from the South this month. Except that I am getting very excited about attending the Grand Communication coming up later this month!

May Dinner Menu:

May 5: Ham & scalloped potatoes with peas, salad, and dessert.

May 19: Yellow rice and chicken with vegetables, salad and dessert.

Fraternally,

Brother Brian Reach JW



From our Sisters of the Eastern Star

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Our annual School of Instruction will be a District School this year at Temple Terrace Lodge on Friday, April 30, at 7 p.m. Brothers, please wear a suit or sport coat and tie. Sisters will be in white.

Twelve members of Friendship attended the Grand Chapter session in St. Augustine during the week of April 5-7. Those who will be serving Grand Chapter this year include: Nancy Richardson, Grand Representative of Maine in Florida; Suzan Moore, Credentials Committee; Ivy Cranford, Credentials Committee; Claudine Rogers, Chairman of the S.H.E.A.F. Main Committee; Judi Dorn, District 16 Chairman of E.S.T.A.R.L.; and I am the District 16 Chairman of the Worthy Grand Matron's Special Project, Fisher House Foundation.

We will honor our District's 2022-2023 Grand Appointments on May 16, and will also have programs to honor Mother's and Memorial Day.

As a Mason, if you or a member of your family is interested in joining the Order of the Eastern Star, our members will be happy to provide information and petitions by request. For those who are members, if it's been a while since you've been in Chapter, please join us. We miss your fellowship!

Praying you're blessed...

Fraternally,

Elizabeth C McAbee
Worthy Matron
813/494-6210

2022- 2023 Grand Chapter of Florida.

**Members of Friendship Chapter #209 and friends from Chapters in our District.
"Friends of feather flock together."**



These four are Grand Representatives of other states from Florida: L-R Sisters Nancy Richardson, Judy Blackwell , Maudelene McCleary , and Brother Joe Casaccia.



L. Maudelene McCleary, Grand representative, Claudine Rogers, escort Barbara Gant, flag bearer.



Looking for a place to eat...and we did mmm good.



Elizabeth McAbee, WM



York Rite Lessons

Companions and Sir Knights,

What is a Lewis?

An instrument made use of in Operative Masonry, a symbol of strength, because it was used by the Operative Masons, to lift heavy stones.

In England the son of a Mason is called a Lewis.

“What you don’t know won’t hurt you.” Wise Old Past Master

What do the letters: LL; FF; SS; BB; represent?

Lodges, Brothers, Sanctum Sanctorum, Burning Bush.

Personally, I’m always ready to learn, although I do not always like being taught.” Winston Churchill

What was the Lodge of St. John?

Masonic tradition says this was the Primitive Mother Lodge, held at Jerusalem, dedicated to St. John the Baptist and then to St. John, the Evangelist, and finally to both, called the Lodge of the Holy Saints John of Jerusalem, and from this Lodge, all other Lodges descended.

“The heart has its reasons to which reason knows nothing of.” Blaise Pascal

Why is Modern Freemasonry called Speculative?

To distinguish it as a contemplative science from an operative Art.

“A good way to repay a kindness shown is to pass it on.” Martha Kinney

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





3/30: Congratulations to the newest Entered Apprentices in Florida Freemasonry! Thank you to the Brothers of Holyrood Lodge for their attendance and allowing us the privilege of performing courtesy Degree work for them. Thank you also to RW Tony Chavez for delivering the lecture and Br. John Nagy for providing the music!



4/5: The Brothers of JFS visited our Brothers to the South by attending the Stated Communication of PTF United Lodge no. 153 in their beautifully renovated building. Thank you to WM Jeremy Tabak and the Brothers of PTF United Lodge no. 153 for always rolling out the red carpet for us!



4/6: The Column Under Construction is an award given to the Lodge with the highest attendance at District School, and our Lodge won for April! This is our first time winning the column in 2022, but it won't be our last!



4/9: JFS Work Day! We cleaned upstairs, downstairs, fixed the pulley to our flag, replaced some lights outside, cleaned the gutters, and did yardwork among other things. Thank you to our Brothers for their hard work!





4/15: The Fish Fry Returns! After a 2+ year hiatus, we weren't sure how many people would even come our first month back, so we only purchased 162 servings of fish... and sold out in 45 minutes! We ended up sending people out on two separate occasions to buy more fish so we could keep the party going, and the line legitimately went out the door on several occasions. The community missed us and, at the risk of sounding corny, it was a Good Friday!





4/22: The Master Mason Association of Hillsborough County must be tired of seeing us win ties, so now they are giving away Challenge Coins as the award for the most members in attendance...only fitting we won the inaugural!



Masonic Education - The Ark of the Covenant

The Ark of the Covenant was housed in the Temple of Solomon, and is a common theme in Freemasonry. It appears as a symbol in a variety of masonic art work. The Ark itself is never mentioned in Blue Lodge ritual.

In the Bible it states that after Solomon's Temple was completed, as part of the dedication ceremony the Ark was seated within the Kodesh Hakodashim or Holy of Holies. Within the Holy of Holies two massive cherubims, beings who attend to God in the Abrahamic tradition, stood overlooking the Ark.

In the Bible a detailed description is given about what the Ark looked like. Most notably to Freemasons, the Ark in several descriptions is made with acacia wood. The wood was covered with gold and a lid was fashioned with Cherubims on the lid. Despite the detailed descriptions in the Bible, the Ark is often drawn in a variety of ways and shapes. There are at least some who disagree with the idea that the Ark was a box or chest, instead saying it was more of a bowl shape, which would have fit in more commonly with other similar objects of that time period.

Some theologians believe that within the Bible there are multiple arks that are spoken of including the one in the story of Exodus. When Moses smashed the Ten Commandments, he placed the broken pieces in the Ark of the Covenant. Also placed in the ark was Aaron's rod and a pot of manna.

Aaron, the brother of Moses, was a slave like Moses in Egypt. God proclaimed that Moses was like a God unto the Egyptians and Aaron would be his prophet. Just as Moses had a rod that displayed mystical powers, so too did Aaron. Prior to the Exodus, Moses and Aaron went before the Pharaoh to give him one last chance to release the Israelites. To prove God's power, God told Aaron to throw his rod on the ground and that it would turn into a snake. The Pharaoh's magicians dropped their rods as well and they turned into snakes, Aaron's rod, now a snake, devoured the other snakes.

After the Exodus it was commanded by God that each of the twelve tribes would put forth a rod to determine which tribe would be the priests of the Ark. The tribe connected to the rod that bloomed overnight would become the priests. Aaron put forth his rod for the Levites. Over the night his rod began to bloom and almonds came from it. Initially the almonds were sweet. Whenever the Israelites turned away from God the almonds would become bitter.

The third item in the Ark, the pot manna was the food source that the Israelites had while wondering the desert. Manna is described in a variety of ways depending on what text you are reading. In later traditions it is said that the Ark was carried before the armies of the Israelites making them invincible.

In modern times, the story of the Ark of the Covenant has been viewed through a more modern and even mystical lens. Everything from *Indiana Jones and the Ark of the Covenant* which had the Ark being unearthed in Egypt and when the Ark was opened the power of God came forth and devoured those who looked upon it. In fact, in the Biblical tradition the Ark was hidden from view, even from the people who were carrying it. In other modern twists it has been stated that Moses actually brought down radioactive material from Mount Sinai, and that was why his hair turned white. It is also claimed by the same group of people that priestly breastplate, or high priest breastplate, was meant as some sort of "shielding:" from the Ark.

The final resting place of the Ark of the Covenant is unknown. The strongest theory has it in Ethiopia where it is guarded by priests. No one is allowed in to see so it is impossible to confirm that it is the Ark of the Covenant.

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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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