



Published monthly Volume XCVII Issue No. 12 – December A.D. 2022, A.L. 6022

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Meetings: 1st and 3rd Thursdays

Our last Degree of the year will be an Entered Apprentice Degree on Tuesday, December 13th. Come on out to welcome our new Brother!

On behalf of WM Ray Ciunci and the Officers of J.F. Swartsel Lodge, we hope you've had a great Thanksgiving, and wish you and your family a happy and safe 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

Upcoming Installations around District 19

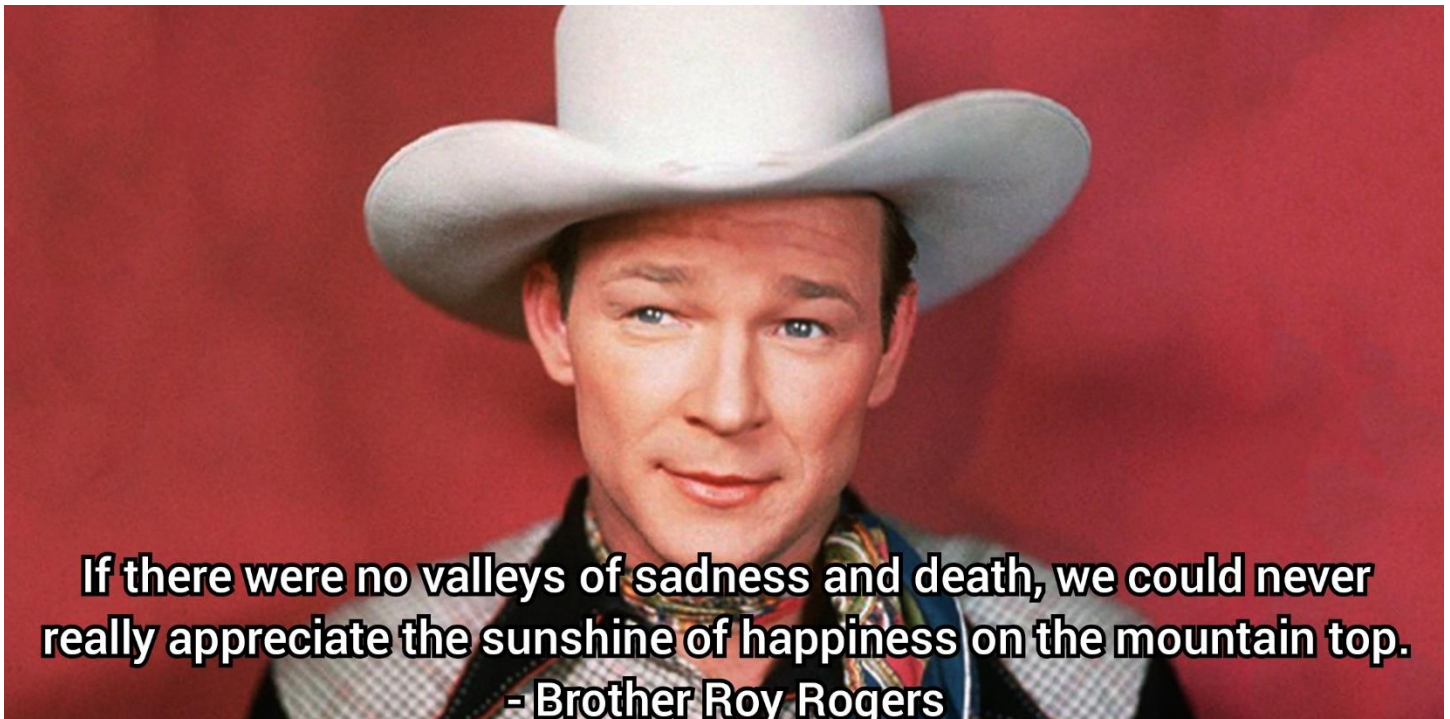
12/28: John Darling @ 6:30 pm (Closed Installation)
1/3: PTF United @ 6 pm (Open Installation)
1/7: Holyrood @ 9 am (Open Installation)
1/7: Hillsborough @ 4 pm (Open Installation)
1/14: Universal @ 9 am (Closed)
1/21: J.F. Swartsel @ 9 am (Open Installation)

Congratulations to our newly Elected and Appointed Officers!



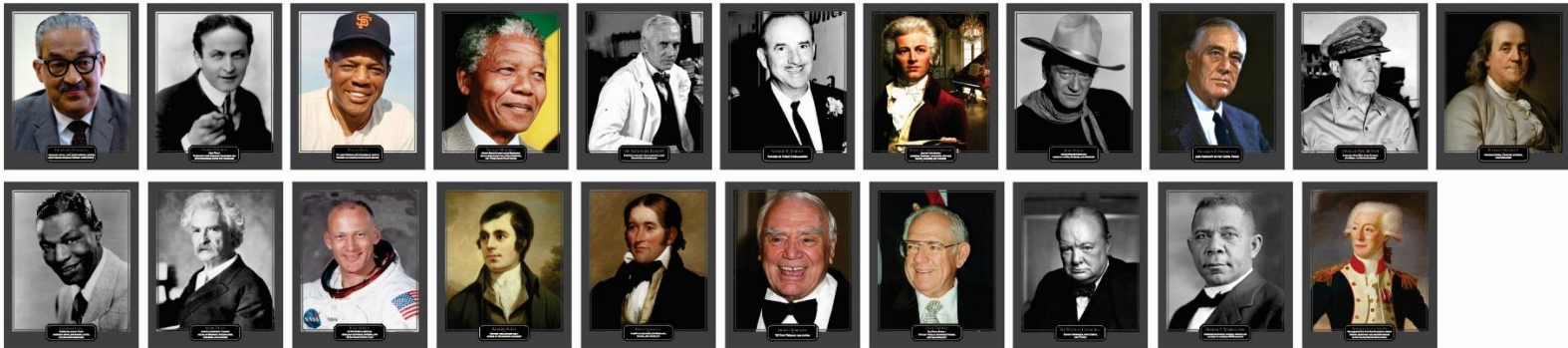
Who does J. F. Swartsel Lodge support in the community?

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
Land O Lakes High School
Steinbrenner High School
Monthly Bingo jackpots at the Florida Masonic Home in St. Petersburg
Metropolitan Ministries
The Joshua House



If there were no valleys of sadness and death, we could never really appreciate the sunshine of happiness on the mountain top.
- Brother Roy Rogers

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**

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 • Floyde 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 © - 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 R • H • Adam S. Feldman, RHDI - 2021 W • Samuel McPherson



Your Amazon purchases can be helping the Fraternity!

The link is <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/59-2740213>

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 Brother Allan Arthur Jenkins (Pro-Tem)
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: December 2022.

1st Stated Communication of J. F. Swartsel Lodge, Dinner @ 6:30 PM, Lodge Opens at 7:30 PM. Lodge Election Night.

6th 6:30 PM, Degree Practice.

7th (6:PM – 7:PM, MLT), (7:PM – 8:PM, District School of Instruction @ John Darling No. 154)

8th Stated Communication of Holyrood Lodge, Dinner @ 6:30 PM, Lodge Opens at 7:30 PM.

9th 7:PM - Masonic Park Board Meeting @ EGYPT Temple, 5017 Washington E St, Tampa.

13th EA Degree at JFS 251, Dinner @ 6:30 PM, Lodge Opens at 7:30 PM.

15th Stated Communication of J. F. Swartsel Lodge, Dinner @ 6:30 PM, Lodge Opens at 7:30 PM.

16th Trestleboard Articles to R. H. Feldman.

16th 6:30 – 7:30 Master Mason Association of Hillsborough County @ John Darling No. 154. With Memorial Lodge to follow.

16th Third Friday FULL Menu Fish Fry at J.F. Swartsel Lodge – Serving from 5 - 7:30 PM.

19th 7:30 - Friendship Chapter No. 209 Order of the Eastern Star meeting.

20th WMe Wade Angel's Pre-Officer meeting

21st 6:30, York Rite Practice.

25th Christmas Day!

27th No Degree Practice, Enjoy the Christmas Break!

28th Installation of John Darling's Officers. Closed Installation at 6:30 PM

From the Worthy Matron: Sister Elizabeth McAbee

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

November was a busy month in Friendship Chapter. We celebrated S.H.E.A.F. (Student Higher Education Award Fund) night at our November 21st meeting and also welcomed our Worthy Grand Matron and Worthy Grand Patron for our annual Official Visit. It was nice to see so many Sisters and Brothers in our meeting.

We will welcome Grands and Past Grands to serve in our stations and as escorts at our December 19th 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 10. Tickets are \$25. Please contact me no later than November 25th 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...

Elizabeth C McAbee

Worthy Matron

813/494-6210

Happenings at the OES Friendship Chapter



Gina, Elizabeth, Judy, Claudine, Jennifer, Barbara and Ann attended the Scotland 1868 version of an Eastern Star initiation. A fundraiser for donations to the Fischer House, an awesome place in time of need.



**Look who held the winning ticket at the New Port Richey Chapter event...
Ms. Gina!**



Ann, Maudeline, Barbara on our way to Orange Park OES for a trip down memory lane for Ann (seated in back) of her Rainbow days



Gina vacuuming with new Hoover.

From the Worshipful Master: Brother Ray Ciunci

Greetings from the East Brothers!!

Well Brothers, my year is about to come to its conclusion. It's been quite a ride to say the least.

First of all, I want to thank all the Brothers and Lodge Officers for all their help during the year. Running a Lodge is not easy and can't be done without help. A special thanks goes out to R.: H.: Feldman for the many things he has helped all of us with... not the least of which is his help with the publication of this Trestleboard each month. Also, a big thanks to W.:M.: elect Wade Angel for filling in my chair while I was out (5 Communications) due to my hip surgery. My absence was regrettable but unavoidable.

I would also like to thank several of the Past Masters of our Lodge who sponsored and supported my Masonic career so that I could make my way to the East.

Specifically, a special thanks goes out to W.: David Lambert, our Secretary. He has not only been the driving force that has helped me in many ways but in my view is the gear that keeps the wheels of this Lodge turning.

During the year a lot has happened. 1) Repaired and added a new finish to our front doors. 2) Restarted our very successful Fish Fry 3) Upgraded our Fish Fry equipment 4) Installed new equipment in the rest rooms to make them ADA compliant. 5) Repaired the lighting on the roof of the building 6) Started the construction process on our new elevator 7) Entered several new Brothers. Welcomed several others who transferred from other Lodges, 6) Passed several Brothers and Raised a few as well. 8) We visited and supported several non-Masonic charities 9) Rotated several Brothers in several different chairs who sat in them for the first time (including the East) during Degrees to deepen our bench.

All the above accomplished many of the beginning of the year Lodge goals, but also demonstrated the vibrant nature of our Lodge. Our reputation precedes us. I have even received complements from the Grand Line about our Lodge and what a great group of Brothers we have. This is not about me but it's about all of you collectively.

The key to our success is simply all about the level of Brotherly Love that exists in our Lodge.

Going forward I am convinced that our W.: M.: Elect Wade Angel will do a great job! Support him as you have supported me.

Here's to 2023!!

Fraternally,

Ray Ciunci W.: M.:

From the Senior Warden: Brother Wade Angel

December. Last month of the year. It is a time when we traditionally reflect back on the year past. It is also a time for looking forward to next year and its possibilities.

I would like to take the time to thank Worshipful Ciunci for his leadership in 2022. I know it was a difficult and painful year for him. Everyone is so glad to see him up and about. Soon his signature Lodge improvement will be under way with the long-awaited elevator project being started. Ray has led our Lodge in a very eventful year. We now have Holyrood Lodge meeting in our building which only increases the Brotherhood within. We conducted a Facebook Ad program and gained some new Brothers. We developed new connections for involvement with Metropolitan Ministries and Joshua House. We are stronger and better due to his leadership. I am sure he is ready for his next position of Past Master. Congratulations Worshipful!

I am looking forward to next year and working with our Brothers to prepare our Lodge and ourselves for celebrating our centennial year coming soon. I will share my thoughts on the preparations at the installation ceremony on January 21, 2023. I hope to see significant growth for our Lodge in the following year. With the Lord's help, and assistance from the Brothers of the Lodge, we will make next year a year to remember.

Happy Holidays to all of our Brothers, Sisters, and their families.

Fraternally Yours,
Brother Wade Edward Angel – Senior Warden

From the Junior Warden: Brother Brian Reach

Welcome to December Brothers!! I hope you and your families had a great Thanksgiving filled with the spirit of the season.

As we close out the year, I want to take this opportunity to thank my stewards Joe Circhirillo and Thomas Sheehan for all their help this year! I don't know how I would have managed without them. I would also like to thank Brother Demetrios Dellis for the great fish dinner that he provided. And finally, last but not least, thanks to all the Brothers who helped in the kitchen and on the serving line this year.

With the end of year holidays right around corner, I hope everyone gets all of their shopping done ahead of time so you can really enjoy the people you hold dear.

December Dinner Menu for stated communications:

December 1: *Baked rigatoni with garlic bread, salad and dessert.*

December 13: *Entered Apprentice Degree. Dinner at 6:30 pm. Menu: to be announced.*

December 15: *Ham and potatoes Au Gratin, salad and Apple pie.*

Check our Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/jfswartsel251>, for changes to the above menu selections.

In closing I would like to thank all the Brothers for this great opportunity to serve as your Jr. Warden and I am looking forward to the challenges next year. As you may know J. F. Swartsel Lodge will be celebrating its 100th year in 2025. With that in mind, the next two years will be filled with some remodeling and updating of the Lodge along with the normal cleaning, painting and maintenance. I'm confident that all those who are able will participate in the various working parties and field day events that will ensure our Lodge looks its best for the Centennial celebration in 2025!

Brother Brian Reach JW

From the Senior Deacon: Brother Allan Jenkins

My Brothers,

Let me start by thanking everyone for their support during my year as Senior Deacon. We Raised 7 Brothers in our Master Mason Degree this year on June 6th. At our Entered Apprentice Degree, we Initiated 3 Brothers, and on November 5th we Passed those Brothers to Fellow Craft. Lastly, on December 13th, we will initiate 1 more Brother. Suffice to say, we have made some serious progress in growing our Lodge. All of the Brothers on the Degree Teams have been outstanding in their efforts, support, and progress in all of the new chairs everyone learned this year.

Now on to my 2023 journey in Masonry. I want to thank everyone for their trust in electing me as your Junior Warden for this upcoming year. I will do my best to provide delicious meals and thoughtful masonic education each meeting. I am very honored to be a part of this thriving Lodge and cannot wait to see what 2023 brings.

I hope you've had a Happy Thanksgiving Brothers, and wish you and your family a safe and happy Holiday season!!

Allan Jenkins, Senior Deacon

WHAT

Have we been
up to?

11/1: The Brothers of J.F. Swartsel visited DeSoto Lodge no. 105 and enjoyed a wonderful meal and even better fellowship. Visiting WM George Grosskopf Jr. of A.W. Windhorst Lodge no. 185 took the photo rather than be in it, but RH Feldman wanted to make sure he was included in this month's Trestleboard selfie-style.



11/3: We accomplished quite a lot at our first Stated Communication of November, including receiving nominations for our 2023 Officers, and raising over \$1,000.00 to provide to McKittrick Elementary school for Thanksgiving! After the meeting, a number of our Brothers went over to Panini's to continue the fellowship.

The donation from JF Swartsel Lodge to McKittrick Elementary was very appreciated by Principal Cline and her entire staff. The donation went toward filling Thanksgiving Day tables for many of their student's families in need.



11/5: The Brothers of J.F. Swartsel Lodge Passed 3 new Brothers to the Degree of Fellowcraft as part of our annual Farmer's Degree! Thank you to RH Roscoe Love for delivering an amazing lecture and W.: Jeff Sklet for an excellent Charge. Congratulations to all of our Brothers who took on new chairs for the Degree, most especially to Br. Demetri Dellis, who hit a home run at his first at-bat from the East!



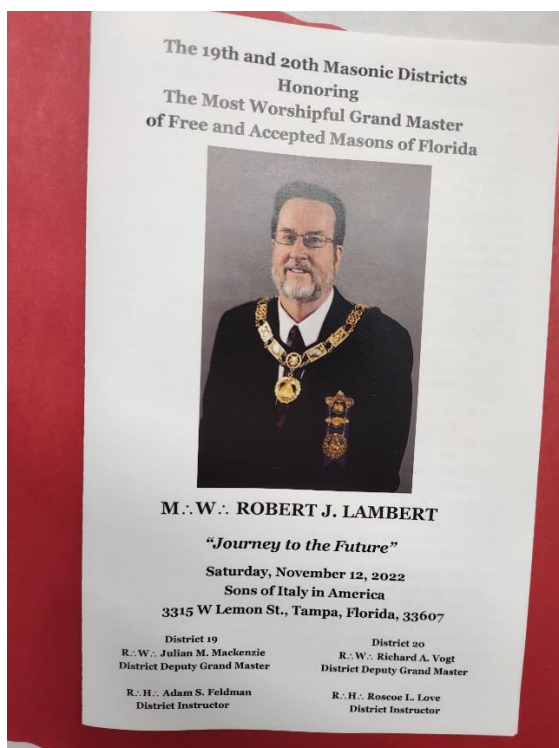
11/8: Election Day! JFS is your voting destination for 3 different precincts, and we cover 3 different drop sites as well! Thank you to everyone who donates their time to help our Lodge with this excellent fundraising opportunity!

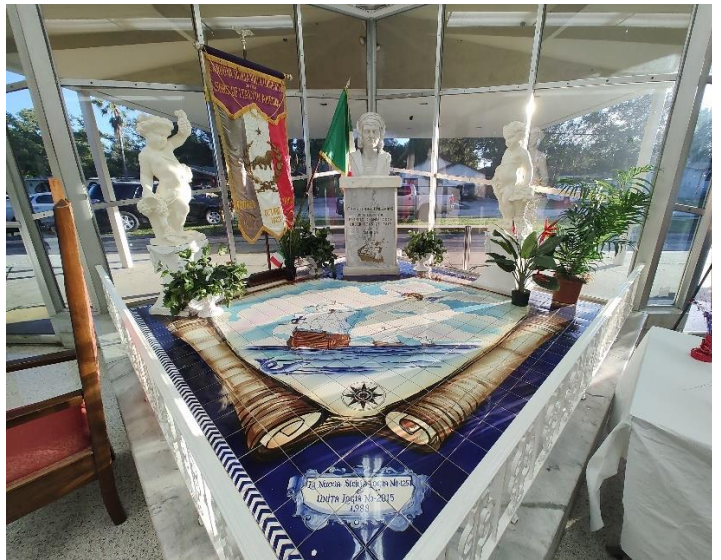




11/9: A number of our newer Brothers hadn't completed Master Mason 1, 2, 3... but true to form, our Lodge came out to do it together! Thank you to W.: Billy Scott for guiding the course, and the following Brothers of JFS for their attendance: Jeffrey T. Sklet, David B. Lambert, Sr., Robby Robertson, Todd Farmer, Wade E. Angel, Jim T. Jenkins, Adam S. Feldman, Demetrios T. Dellis, Thomas M. Sheehan, Lamont J. Richardson, David B. Lambert, II, Joe Circhirillio, James R. Lambert, Dickey P. Davis, Thomas H. Overman, Brian A. Reach, Nathan Reach

11/12: The Grand Master's Official Visit for Districts 19 and 20 was held at the Sons of Italy in Tampa. The event brought out 290 Masons and their families, and our Lodge received singled-out praise from MW Rob Lambert as being one of the Lodges that are doing everything right! Congrats Brothers, let's keep our foot on the gas for 2023 and beyond!





11/14: Worshipful Master Appreciation Night at Nitram Lodge no. 188.
Congratulations to our own Ray Ciunci and the Masters who came before him, for all having helped position our Lodge for the success we now enjoy! The night also honored the Masonic youth and Scottish Rite members including our own Chuck Osborne!



Masonic Education – Feast of St. John the Evangelist

The Feast of St. John the Evangelist is celebrated annually on December 27th and marks the mid-winter. St. John the Evangelist, along with St. John the Baptist are the two St. John's referred to in Masonic Ritual.

John the Evangelist, also referred to as John the Theologian and the Apostle John, lived from approximately 15 A.D. to 100 A.D.

In the Bible, the Gospel of John refers to an unnamed "disciple whom Jesus loved." It is believed the Apostle John wrote the gospel because, in part, the author refers to James and Peter and is not claiming to be either of these two disciples. The writer of this gospel also is writing the Gospel in the light of the Synoptic Gospels which are the gospels of Mark, Matthew and Luke. This leads to the conclusion it must be the Apostle John. The term Evangelist comes from a Greek word which means "writer of the gospel", it is also in reference to the Latin word evangelium. In most Christian traditions, the Apostle John is John the Evangelist.



John the Evangelist as a historical figure was one of the "pillars" of the Jerusalem Church after Jesus' death. He is believed to be the only one of the Apostles to survive until old age. The other apostles all having been put to death for their faith.

Some believe John, around 95 A.D. was exiled to the island of Patmos. There it is believed he wrote Revelations. This is a matter for debate. Many scholars believe John of Patmos was not John the Evangelist. Beyond the Gospel of John, there are many works attributed to John the Evangelist, most, including the Gospel of John are still debated whether John the Evangelist actually wrote them. Some scholars believe the Gospel of John was not written by anyone named John. This debate has raged since 200 A.D.

For Freemasonry, the Feast of St. John the Evangelist was utilized by many of the early Grand Lodges in England and Scotland as well as individual lodges. The Lodge of Edinburgh was associated with the aisle of St. John the Evangelist in St. Giles Cathedral as far back as the 15th century. The Grand Lodge of All England, which was a masonic body located primarily in the city of York, as well as its predecessor the Ancient Society of Freemasons in the City of York, elected it's President and, starting in 1725, its Grand Master on the Feast of St. John the Evangelist. The Ancient Grand Lodge of England also elected it's Grand Master on the same day. When the Ancients and the Moderns merged in 1813 to become the United Grand Lodge of England it occurred on the Feast of St. John the Evangelist.

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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