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Meetings: 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays

On behalf of the Officers of J.F. Swartsel Lodge, we hope you've had a safe and pleasant Holiday season, and look forward to seeing you in 2023!

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**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

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## Upcoming Installations around District 19

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

**Congratulations to our newly Elected and Appointed Officers!**

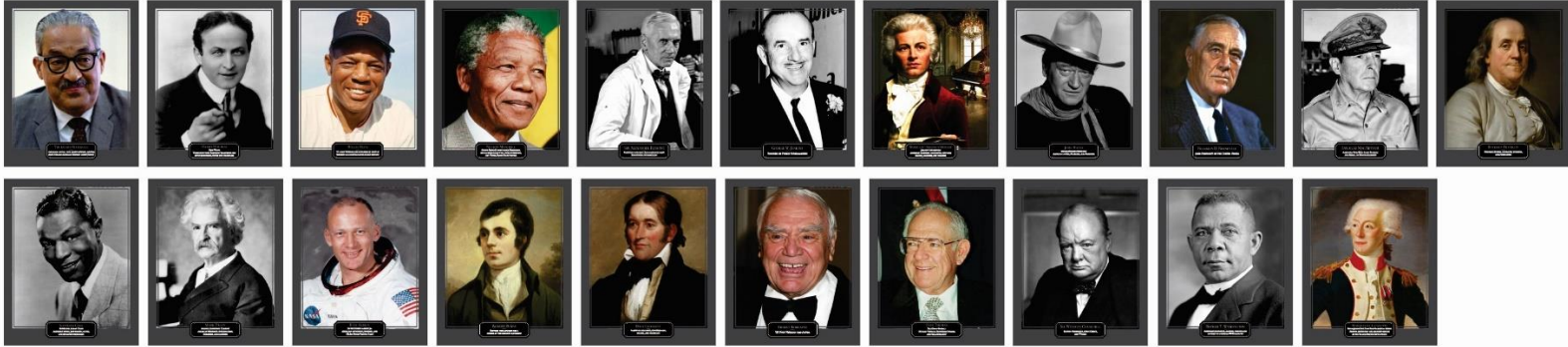


## Who does J. F. Swartsel Lodge support in the community?

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 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



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Next time you need something, go to [smile.amazon.com](https://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!

**Your 2023 J. F. Swartzel Officers are as follows:**

|                   |                                 |
|-------------------|---------------------------------|
| Worshipful Master | Brother Wade Edward Angel       |
| Senior Warden     | Brother Brian Andrew Reach      |
| Junior Warden     | Brother Allan Arthur Jenkins    |
| 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 Demetrios Thomas Dellis |
| Junior Deacon     | Brother Joe Circhirillo         |
| Senior Steward    | Brother Thomas Martin Sheehan   |
| Junior Steward    | Brother Tom Overman             |
| Tyler             | Brother Dickey <u>Davis</u>     |
| Musician          | Brother John S 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,

#### **First, Happy New Year to all my Brothers and their families.**

Brothers on December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022, the Lodge voted unanimously on the Resolution for Merger between Palma Ceia No. 290 and J. F. Swartsel Lodge No. 251 with J. F. Swartsel Lodge being the continuing Lodge. Palma Ceia Lodge No. 290 voted unanimously on Monday, December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022, to Merge with J. F. Swartsel Lodge No. 251 and the Resolution was presented to the Grand Master on December 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2022. After the approval of the Grand Master the Resolution will be read to the Lodges at a Stated Communication as follows: Merging Lodge – Monday January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023, Continuing Lodge – Thursday January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023. The Resolution for Merger of Palma Ceia Lodge No. 290 and J. F. Swartsel Lodge No. 251 shall be adopted on the: the Continuing Lodge on Thursday, February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023 and the Merging Lodge on Monday, February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023 and with an effective date of the merger on March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023.

#### **Calendar of Important Lodge Dates: January 2023.**

- 3<sup>rd</sup> 6:30 PM, Degree Practice.**
- 4<sup>th</sup> (6:PM – 7:PM, MLT), (7:PM – 8:PM, District School of Instruction @ John Darling No. 154).**
- 5<sup>th</sup> Stated Communication of J. F. Swartsel Lodge, Dinner @ 6:30 PM, Lodge Opens at 7:30 PM.**
- 7<sup>th</sup> 10:AM - Holyrood No. 257 (2023) Open Installation of Officers.**
- 8<sup>th</sup> 8:AM – Masonic Park Board Meeting @ EGYPT Temple, 5017 Washington E St, Tampa.**
- 10<sup>th</sup> 6:30 PM, Degree Practice.**
- 16<sup>th</sup> 7:30 - Friendship Chapter No. 209 Order of the Eastern Star meeting.**
- 17<sup>th</sup> 6:30 PM, Degree Practice.**
- 19<sup>th</sup> Stated Communication of J. F. Swartsel Lodge, Dinner @ 6:30 PM, Lodge Opens at 7:30 PM.**
- 20<sup>th</sup> Third Friday FULL Menu Fish Fry at J.F. Swartsel Lodge – Serving from 5 - 7:30 PM.**
- 20<sup>th</sup> Trestleboard Articles to WM(e) Angel**
- 21<sup>st</sup> 9:AM – 1:PM, J. F. Swartsel Lodge Open Installation of 2022 Officer's.**
- 24<sup>th</sup> 6:30 PM, Degree Practice.**
- 27<sup>th</sup> 6:30 – 7:30 Master Mason Association of Hillsborough County @ John Darling No. 154. With Memorial Lodge to follow.**
- 28<sup>th</sup> Open Books at Zone School of Instruction @ John Darling No. 154.**
- 31<sup>st</sup> 6:30 PM, Degree Practice.**

### **From the Worshipful Master: Brother Ray Ciunci**

Greetings from the East one last time.

Because of a scheduling glitch The WM elect will not be installed until 2/21/2023. So, I must provide you with one last trestle board note from the east.

Again, I wish to say 2022 was a blast thanks to the efforts of all the elected and appointed brothers in the line. I will be forever grateful for their support. Come and support the new WM in 2023 – he's going to do a great job and the upcoming year should be exciting and fun.

Fraternally,  
Ray Ciunci

### **From the Senior Warden: Brother Wade Angel**

Thank You Worshipful Ciunci for your leadership in 2023. I am sure you will enjoy your new role of Past Master. As the Worshipful Master elect I am looking forward to serving the Brothers of J. F. Swartsel Lodge this year. In 2023 we will be undertaking many new projects in our remodeling of the Lodge. Of course we will be discussing these proposed changes with the craft and look forward to EVERYONE'S input. As we all work toward preparing our Lodge for our Centennial year celebrations, it will take us all to make it happen. I look forward to the challenge and hope all of you do as well. Our long - awaited elevator project will soon begin at the end of the month. Hopefully the work will go quickly, with minimal disruptions to our usual operation.

I hope to see everyone coming to our Stated Communications and especially our Installation of Officers on January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023. Coffee and donuts at 8am, closing of the Funeral Lodge at 9am and Installation beginning at 10am. Together we are going to make 2023 a GREAT year for J. F. Swartsel.

### **From the Junior Warden: Brother Brian Reach**

Welcome to 2023 Brothers!!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the Brothers for the honor you have given me to serve as your Senior Warden this year. I look forward to working closely with our new Worshipful Master and all of the 2023 Officers as we endeavor to update and spruce up the Lodge so she is at her best for the Centennial Celebration in 2025!

Hope to see you all in Lodge, it is going to be a great year!!

#### **January 2023 Dinner menu for stated communications:**

January 5: Baked rigatoni with garlic bread, salad, and dessert.

January 19: Goulash over Noodles, salad, and dessert.

### **Good of the Order: Worshipful David Lambert II**

My Brothers All,

First, I want to thank the Lodge and the brothers for their donations to Project Sunshine. The Electric Cooperatives of Florida are going to bring power to a remote village in Guatemala. As you are aware, I am the team lead for this first ever international project that Florida Cooperatives have undertaken. We will electrify over 30 homes in the village along with a coffee farm that will create jobs and help sustain the community. The coffee farm will be able to process, roast, and package their coffee when the machines are hooked up. The lodge raised over 1,000 dollars to help the children of this village, and if you look at the pictures our brothers will see how poor the community is. While visiting the community for the first time in August to plan the construction that will take place soon I had the opportunity to visit with some families. I asked a young mother what I could bring her back from the U.S. when I returned and she requested a light bulb so her children could do their homework. The money the lodge raised has been sent to NRECA International to provide some type of service to the village such as a well, refrigeration, or materials to build a school. Please see the Facebook link [www.facebook.com/groups/powering](https://www.facebook.com/groups/powering) for the brothers to like, follow, and share. The page will be updated daily beginning December 1<sup>st</sup> until the project is completed on December 16<sup>th</sup> and the village is electrified.

Fraternally,

David Lambert, II, PM

## York Rite Lessons

Brothers, Companions and Sir Knights,

What does Audi, Vici, Trace, found on Masonic medals and documents mean?  
Hear, See and be Silent.

“There are no GENTLEMEN in Freemasonry” Old Past Master

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Who is Robert Burns?

Initiated in St. David’s Lodge, Tarbolton and at one time Master of a Lodge.

“How old would you be if you didn’t know how old your are? Leroy Satchell Page

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Who were the Crowned Martyrs?

Four Operative Masons put to death during the reign of the Roman Emperor Diocletian for refusing to aid in building a pagan temple. The famous literary Lodge of London, Quatuor Coronati was named for them.

“It ain’t over till it’s over.” Yogi Berra

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Brothers, Companions and Sir Knights,  
Who was Jacques de Molay?

The last Grand Master of the Templars.

“Life is like a bicycle. You don’t fall off unless you stop pedaling.” Claude Pepper, U.S. Congressman

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What is a Lewis?

An instrument made use of in Operative Masonry, a symbol of strength, because it was used by the Operative Mason to lift heavy stones. In England the son of a Mason is called a Lewis.

“Concentrate on counting your blessings, and you’ll have little time to count anything else.” Woodrow Knoll

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What is Iconology?

The science which treats of images and symbols and collateral with Freemasonry.

“Gratitude is the fairest blossom which springs from the soul.” Henry Ward Beecher

Zealously

Most Excellent Companion

James F. (Robby) Robertson KYGCH

Past Grand High Priest

Grand Chapter of RAM of Florida

813 416 0152

**Your most humble and obedient servant.**

## What have we been up to?

**12/8: Congratulations to Worshipful Matthew Jones on receiving his 40 Year Membership pin and certificate at our first Stated Communication of the month. RW Drew Baldwin from the Committee on Work was also in attendance to present RHDI Adam Feldman with his Blue Card renewal. Congratulations Brothers!**



**12/14: Congratulations to Br. Luis Valdes, our newest EA! Thank you to W.: Ted Grubbs for the excellent lecture, Brother John Nagy for always assisting with the music, and the Brothers of JFS for their participation!**



## **Masonic Education: Happy 5785 Brothers! (A.M.)**

The year is 5785 Anno Mundi or Year After Creation.

Anno Mundi is used by Scottish Rite organizations to calculate dates. It is based on the Biblical creation of the world from the Hebrew tradition.

There can be some discrepancy in this calculation based on which set of scriptures are used. According to the Greek Septuagint text the world was created in 5500 B.C.E. Even the Tanakh doesn't match perfectly with the Anno Mundi used by Scottish Rite. In the Tanakh it puts it at 3750 B.C.E. The number used by Scottish Rite has it as 3762.



Like many things associated with the Bible and Freemasonry it all comes down to interpretation. The fluctuation in numbers (around 1400 years) is based on how you interpret the Book of Genesis and the age of characters in the Bible starting with Adam and going to Terah the father of Abraham. There is also some discrepancy when it comes to the Biblical flood and the timing of those events.

Regardless, for the Scottish Rite mason the year is calculated by adding 3762 to the current year making it 5785 A.M.

For those looking for some Masonic knowledge, here is a list of the current years and how they associate with Freemasonry:

- It is 6023 Anno Lucis or In the Year of Light. This is the most common of dates for Blue Lodge Freemasonry. It is found simply by adding 4000 to the current year. This represents the Biblical start of the human race.
- It is 905 Anno Ordinis or In the Year of the Order. This is used by the Knights Templar, which is part of the York Rite system in the United States. The date is based on the founding of the Knights Templar or the Poor Fellow Soldiers of Christ. In 1118 the Order was started and the date is found by subtracting 1118 from the current date.
- It is 2553 Anno Inventionis or In the Year of the Discovery. This date is used by Royal Arch Masons and commemorates the building of the Second Temple by Zerubbabel. The date is found by adding 530 to the date. 530 represents 530 B.C.E. the year Zerubbabel built the second temple.
- It is 3023 Anno Depositionis or In the Year of the Deposit. This is used by Royal and Select Masters and Cryptic Masons. It is believed Solomon's Temple was completed in 1000 B.C.E. so the Anno Depositionis can be found by adding 1000 to the current date.

I wish everyone great success in your Masonic and non-Masonic endeavors over the coming year!

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