



# JF SWARTSEL NO.251 F.&A.M. TRESTLEBOARD



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

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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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## **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

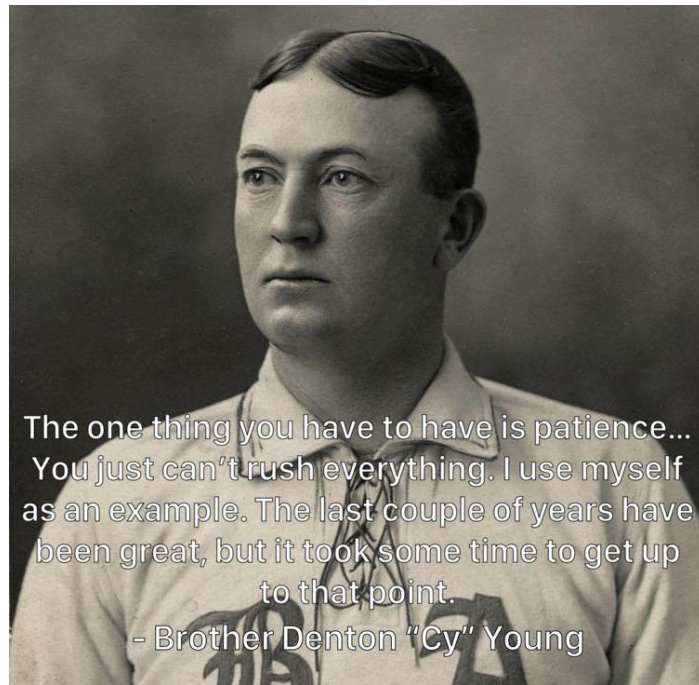
Land O Lakes High School

Steinbrenner High School

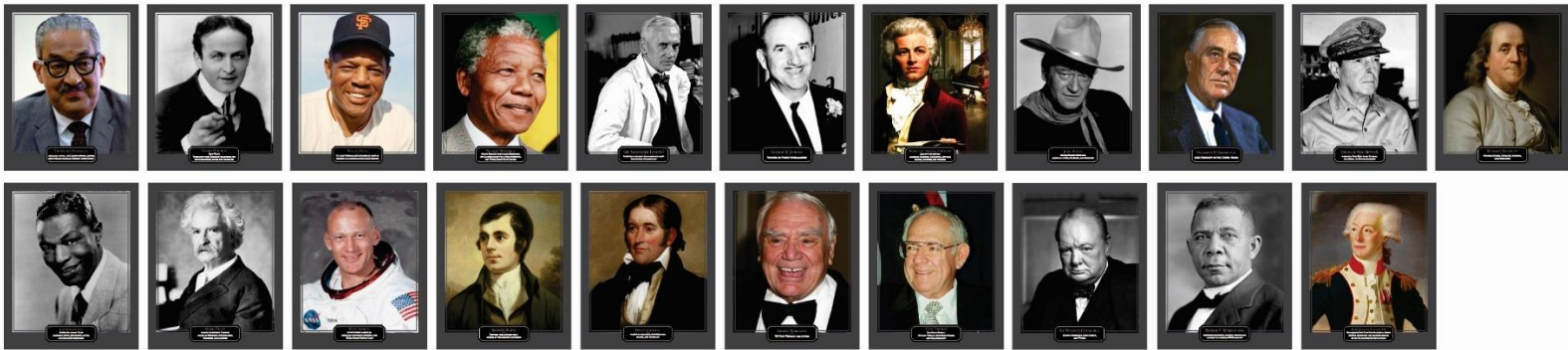
Monthly Bingo jackpots at the Florida Masonic Home in St. Petersburg

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**

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 - 2022 W \* Raymond J. Ciunci

## **Your 2023 J. F. Swartsel 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 Thomas Holland Overman  
**Tyler** Brother Dickey Parrish Davis  
**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.

#### Calendar of Important Lodge Dates:

May 2023.

- 2<sup>nd</sup> 6:30 PM, Degree Practice.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> (6:PM – 7:PM, MLT), (7:PM – 8:PM), District School of Instruction @ John Darling No. 154.
- 4<sup>th</sup> Stated Communication of J. F. Swartsel Lodge, Dinner @ 6:30 PM, Lodge Opens at 7:30 PM.
- 9<sup>th</sup> 6:PM, Officer's Meeting, 6:45 PM, Degree Practice.
- 12<sup>th</sup> 7:PM – 8:PM, Masonic Park Board Meeting @ 5017 E Washington St, Tampa, FL 33619.
- 15<sup>th</sup> 6:PM - Friendship Chapter No. 209 (Official Inspection) Order of the Eastern Star meeting.
- 16<sup>th</sup> F. C. Degree for Luis Valdes @ J. F. Swartsel Lodge, Dinner @ 6:30 PM, Lodge Opens at 7:30 PM.
- 18<sup>th</sup> Stated Communication of J. F. Swartsel Lodge, Dinner @ 6:30 PM, Lodge Opens at 7:30 PM.
- 19<sup>th</sup> Third Friday FULL Menu Fish Fry at J.F. Swartsel Lodge – Serving from 5 - 7:00 PM.
- 22<sup>nd</sup> 6:30 – 7:30 Master Mason Association of Hillsborough County @ EGYPT Temple.
- 23<sup>rd</sup> 6:30 PM, Degree Practice.
- 28<sup>th</sup> 194<sup>th</sup> Grand Communication Starts.
- 30<sup>th</sup> 6:30 PM, Degree Practice.

### From the Worthy Matron: Sister Barbara Grant

Just so you know, your Sisters in Friendship Chapter had a great time visiting with ya'll at Paninis. Music loud, food late, NO matter the fellowship was great. Looking forward to more camaraderie. The Order of the Eastern Star is the largest fraternal organization in the world that has both men and women for membership. We are excited to be a part of the fellowship with our Masonic Brothers. We want you to know we appreciate the opportunity to meet in your beautiful building and a great big thank you those who place our chairs, podiums, and rugs out for us. Lastly, if you, or, a family member are interested in becoming a member of our Order, as the bumper sticker states, 2 B one ask I. Our Worthy Patron, David Lambert, and others will be happy to enlighten your request.

Star Love ,  
Barbara Gant, W.M.  
2023-2024

### From the Worshipful Master: Brother Wade Angel

We are getting closer to getting our elevator installed. I know I have said that before, but I have confirmation that the lift has been completed at the factory in Canada and has been shipped. Cross your fingers that this latest delay with permits gets resolved quickly. Then we can proceed with other projects.

Our next project will be to revamp our dining hall (fellowship Hall). We just received estimates from two different contractors, and one of them is very good. It won't be long now. Good things are happening here on all fronts. We are

bringing in new members and advancing them. Our degree team is practicing hard to keep up with our Brothers advancement. Our meetings have been very productive and very well attended. I love to see that. With Grand Communication coming up, we have to go over the proposed legislation for the year within the next two meetings. I am looking for a good turnout from our Lodge in Orlando this year too. Keep up the great work Brothers.

Fraternally Yours,  
Wade E. Angel – Worshipful Master

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

My Brothers, the April 20 diner and meeting were awesome! It was great to see so many Brothers. The lively conversations over diner were great. However, we may have to install some new acoustic ceiling tiles in the dining area to help with the noise ... it's a good problem to have!!! Kudos to the Junior Warden for a great meal. The after meeting Fellowship continued at a new location, the "Lutz Connection" just across Dale Mabry, and just to the left of Publix. The Brothers had a great time competing at table shuffle board. There are also two dart game machines that I plan to try on the next visit.

The Lodge presented the two scholarships at Steinbrenner high school. Land O Lakes HS is next on the list. I hope we will be able to expand our program in the upcoming years.

Brother Brian Reach SW

### **From the Junior Warden: Brother Allan Jenkins**

My Brothers, the old adage is that April showers bring May flowers. Well in Florida it did not rain much, but our lodge was hard at work. We raised Jack Jones and Jason Schein - Congratulations! We had several people reach out on Facebook to inquire about Masonry, we voted on several petitions for new membership and several reinstatements. Our lodge is finalizing the lift to assist those that need help to get upstairs and we have received several quotes to update the fellowship hall. So while Florida was in drought we have been busy watering the lodge with positive growth.

So after all of that hard work in April I will be looking forward to this month and what we will accomplish. I feel that we should be rewarded with some great upcoming meals and education.

May 4th  
Meal - Salisbury Steak with Mushroom and Onion Gravy  
Education - W. Rich Andrews

May 18th  
Meal - Tropical Inspired Chicken  
Education - Bro. John Nagy

Lastly, I would like to send a Big Happy Birthday to the following Brothers born in the month of May:

Jerry Kuhn	Victor Van Pelt
Steven Whitmer	Colen Francechini
Robert Crabtree	Joseph Almaguer
Leonard Kirk	Matthew Shawver
Steve Bush	Daniel Sacher-Brown
Paul Wavrock	Richard Avirett
James Vanders Sr.	Charles Tucker
Ledd Hudson	Frank Penny
Angel Acosta	

Thank you all for your participation in the Lodge growth!

Fraternally,  
Brother Allan Jenkins JW

## York Rite Lesson

When and by whom was Solomon's Temple destroyed?  
Nebuchadnezzar during the reign of Zedekiah, A. M. 3416, B.C. 588

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What Queen paid King Solomon a visit? Balkis (Queen of Sheba)

"Always laugh when you can. It is cheap medicine." Lord Byron

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What is the prophetic significance of the "rejected stone"? "Did ye never read in the scriptures, the stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner." Mat. 21:42

"The traditions we create will be the memories our children will cherish in the future." Author unknown

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What are the three principal supports of a Lodge? Wisdom, Strength, and Beauty.

"Carve your name on hearts, not tombstones. A legacy is etched into the minds of others and the stories they share about you"

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If it ain't York, it ain't Rite

Zealously,  
Most Excellent Companion  
James F. (Robby) Robertson KYGCH  
Past Grand High Priest  
Grand Chapter of RAM of Florida  
**Your most humble and obedient servant.**





## What have we been up to?

3/27/2023 Master Mason Association of Hillsborough County



3/30/2023 Family Night – Great Turn out! J.F. Swartsel, Holyrood and Friendship Chapter OES came out for fun and fellowship







4/1/2023 Master Mason Degree



4/6/2023 The fellowship continues at Panini's after our stated communication





4/13/2023 J.F. Swartsel Lodge Scholarship Presentation – George Steinbenner High School  
Congratulations to Daniella Kanas and Humbert Martinez (not pictured) as the recipients of the 2023 J.F. Swartsel Lodge Scholarship. We wish you the most success in the future. A big thanks to our Worshipful Master, Wade Angel, our Senior Warden, Brian Reach and Brothers Thomas Sheehan and Jack Jones for making the presentation.



4/21/2023 Fish Fry Great turn out for the fish fry. Thanks for everyone who came out especially the Brothers who helped out.



4/22/2023 Degree Competition - Congratulations to the District 19 Degree Team! All reports are they did a great job at the annual degree competition. We'll have to wait for Grand Lodge to see how we stacked up with the rest of the state. The team consisted of several member from J.F. Swartsel. Team Captain, R.: H.: Adam Feldman, Senior Deacon, Demetrios Dellis, Chaplain, W.: M.: Wade Angel, Tyler, W.: Jeff Sklet and candidate, Allan Jenkins.





## Where in the world is our Brother Frank Penny?

**Phuket, Thailand** is on the Andaman Sea - the city has been described as beautiful, exotic, and unique. For over two thousand years it has been a major stop over between China and India - there are 29 major Buddhist temples in the area - 75% of the population are Buddhists





## **THE MIDDLE EAST**

### **Muscat (Mina Qabos), Oman.**

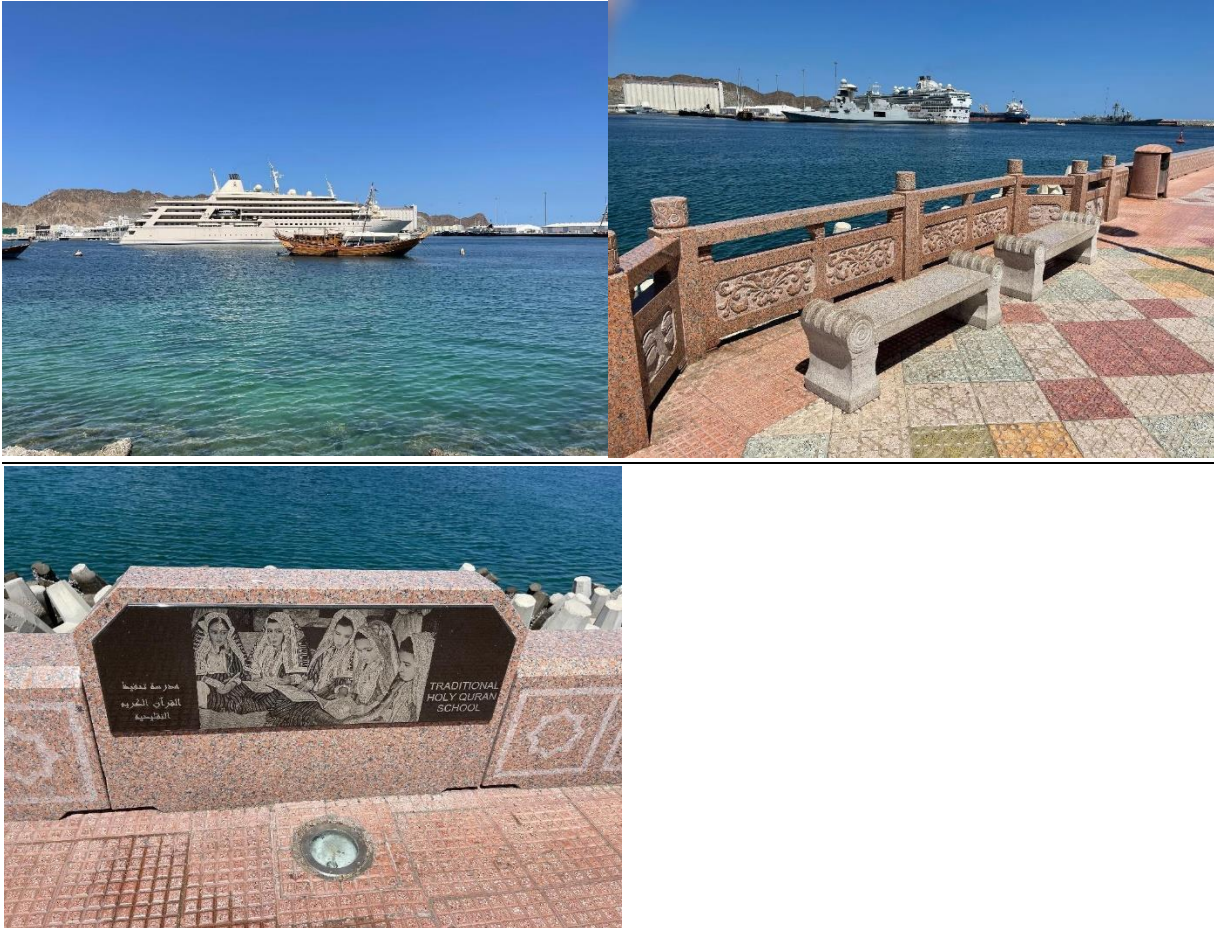
Muscat has been a crucial seaport for about 24 centuries.

It is on the trade route between East and West. A major clash began in 1507 when Portugal tried to dominate the route to the Indian Ocean.

Since the 17th century it has been ruled by the Al Said Dynasty.

The large ship in the harbor is owned by the Sultan.

Note the intricate sidewalks along the water.



**Some views of Dubai** - Their legacy goes back 50 centuries when the Magan civilization sailed between the Mediterranean Sea and the Indian Ocean trading copper. Dubai likes to show off it's lavish side with displays of grandeur, beauty and opulence. The **2,722 foot tower** in Dubai is the tallest in the world - their **Ferris wheel** at 750 feet is the tallest in the world - the **Burj Al Arab Hotel**, shaped like sail, is the tallest all suite hotel in the world over water. And it goes on and on.





## Aqaba, Jordan

The city is on the northeastern tip of the Red Sea that was founded in about 1300 B.C. by ancient people known as the Edomites. It is Jordan's only seaport. Aqaba is near the ancient city of Petra. Also near by is Wadi Rum, a desert area inhabited by the Bedouins. T.E. Lawrence set up camp here. The 1962 classic film "Lawrence of Arabia" was filmed here.



The Suez Canal is a 120 mile long sea level canal that connects The Mediterranean Sea with The Red Sea. It is a vital trade link between Europe and Asia. Originally built by a French company in the mid 1800s, it is now owned and operated by Egypt. About 100 ships can go through a day. We entered at about 6:00 AM and entered the Mediterranean around 5:00 in the afternoon

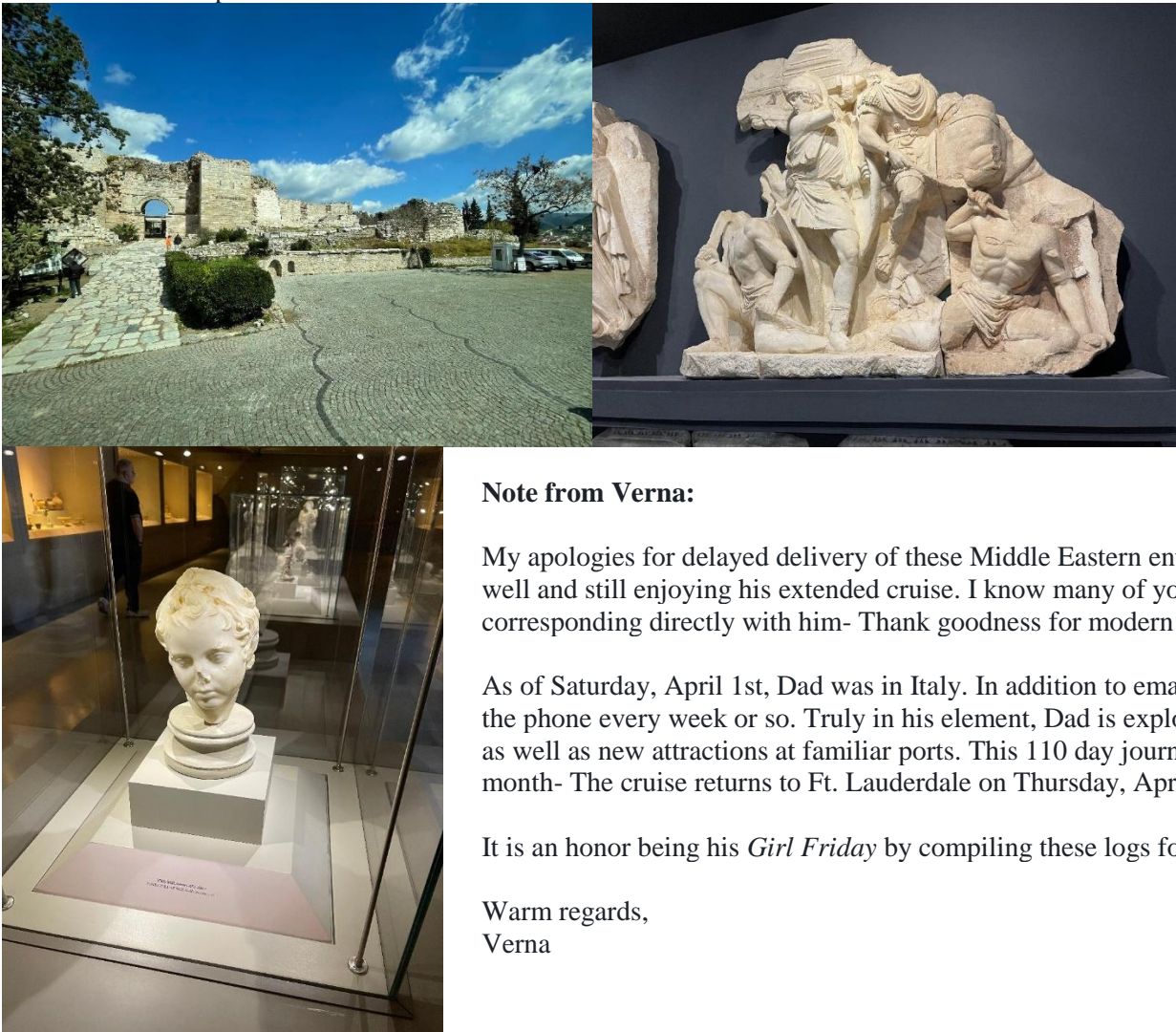


The Dead Sea in Israel is the lowest place on earth - about 2,500 hundred feet below sea level. As there is no outlet, the water from the Jordan River just evaporates - the salt remains and the sea becomes more salty - it is so salty that one floats on the surface - the level of the sea is dropping about a yard per year



### Kusdasi, Turkey

This city is a port in Turkey that is the gateway to Ephesus, the site of the ruins of a former Roman provincial capital. Among the sites is a Roman theatre that seated 25,000. The Ephesus museum has an extensive collection of artifacts from the ruins of Ephesus.



#### Note from Verna:

My apologies for delayed delivery of these Middle Eastern entries. My dad is well and still enjoying his extended cruise. I know many of you are corresponding directly with him- Thank goodness for modern technology!

As of Saturday, April 1st, Dad was in Italy. In addition to emails, we speak on the phone every week or so. Truly in his element, Dad is exploring new places as well as new attractions at familiar ports. This 110 day journey is in its final month- The cruise returns to Ft. Lauderdale on Thursday, April 27.

It is an honor being his *Girl Friday* by compiling these logs for him.

Warm regards,  
Verna



### **The Caves of Diros** - near Gythion, Greece.

The caves are very extensive - they say many sections still have not been explored. One rides through a small boat with just six per boat - an oarsman guides you thru silently - some of the stalactites and stalagmites are very large and spectacular.



**Ravenna, Italy**, on Italy's West Coast - south of Venice. The city dates back to 2 B.C., when it was colonized by the Romans. It was the capital of the Western Roman Empire three times. The Basilica de San Vitale, designed on a traditional Byzantine octagonal floor plan, contains what is considered to be the most impressive Byzantine mosaics in the Western World. The city also is the site of the tomb of Dante, the famous poet and writer who is considered the originator of the modern Italian language. He lived his final years here.



Pictures from **The Republic of San Marino**. San Marino is a small country entirely within the borders of Italy. It is the third smallest country in Europe after Monaco and Andorra. With a population of 33,500, it is up in the Apennine Mountains at an elevation of 2500 feet near the Adriatic Coast. The picture of the building is the seat of government in the Palazzo Pubblico. San Marino is considered to have the earliest written governing documents still in effect. They go back to 1600.







**Kotor, Montenegro** is an UNESCO World Heritage Site. It is on the Adriatic Sea. The city was first settled by the Ancient Romans as early as the fifth century B.C. The name Montenegro means “Black Mountains”. The first picture shows the city and our cruise boat. It was taken from a cliff high above the city. The cliffs go up about 2,000 feet.



National Museum in the city of Cetinje



The ancient town square of Kotor. St Typhon Cathedral was completed in 1166 and boasts fascinating Romanesque and Byzantine architecture.

**Malta** is an independent country less than the size of Washington, DC. It is strategically located between Sicily and North Africa. Due to the location, it has been captured and ruled by (among others) the Byzantine Empire, the Arabs, Normans, Germans, French and Spanish. It was a British colony until granted independence after WWII. The capital city of Valletta has an excellent, well-fortified harbor. Its colossal architectural monuments helped turn Valletta, the smallest capital in the EU, into a UNESCO World Heritage Site.



Typical street scene in Valletta:



View of harbor with Maltese Cross in flowers:



View of several levels of the city:

## Taormina, Italy (Sicily)

A coastal resort town since Roman times. From Taormina one is treated to a magnificent view of Mt Etta. Frequently shrouded in clouds; we were fortunate to have the view in the picture.



Also in Taormina are the ruins of an ancient Greek/Roman Theatre, built in the 3rd century, B.C. See the picture of one of the standing walls. The sitting area is preserved and used for concerts.



Taormina is situated high about the water with commanding views of the sea.

Happy Easter and Happy Passover to friends & family.

Warm Regards,  
Frank

**A day in Rome.** Rome was founded in April, 753 B.C. It lies on The Tiber River in the middle of Italy on the East coast. Estimated population is almost three million.



*The Castle of Angels*, on the Tiber River. The Castle dates back 2000 years to the time of Emperor Hadrian.

*The Colosseum*. It was used by Emperors to entertain the public with spectacular games.



*St Peter's Square* on a very busy day. The Pope was scheduled to address the gathering.



**Eze** is in Southern France, between Nice and Monaco. In 1338, the House of Savoy took charge and fortified it. The village is located on a cliff about 1500 feet above the water.



Part of the magnificent gardens in the village.

A breathtaking vista from the ruins of the 900 year old **Eze Castle** at the summit.

**Eze Castle** as seen from below.

Next port: We docked in **Marseille, France**. The city is a very import seaport.

First stop on a tour was Avignon to see *The Cathedral of The Popes*. Nine Popes resided in Avignon during the the Great Schism, that lasted from 1309 to 1378.

A Roman aqueduct (nearby Pont du Gard) dating back to 40 A.D. It carried 44 million gallons of water a day. It remains in remarkably good condition. The Romans were very good builders.

The Rhône River at Avignon. The Pont d' Avignon across the river was built in 1177. A portion still stands.



### **Barcelona, Spain:**

is a fascinating city to visit. While it is part of Spain, it considers itself apart from Spain. There are two official languages in Barcelona - Spanish and Catalan. Our tour guide jokingly said there really are three because English is so widely spoken.



The La Sagrada Familia is regarded as architect Antonio Gaudi's masterpiece. Started in 1882, work continues to this day.

The Montjuic/Olympic Stadium hosted the 1992 Olympic Games.

The narrow streets of Barcelona: The Gothic Quarter is the center of the old city. There are many narrow streets there, many dating back to medieval times. Foot traffic has to make way for passing cars.





Saturday, April 15, we visited **Malaga, Spain**. Malaga is on the Southern, Mediterranean Coast of Spain. It has a history that goes back 28 centuries. It was founded by the Phoenicians in 770 B.C. It became a Roman colony 550 years later and flourished through the centuries. After passing through the Straights of Gibraltar, we were on our way to Casablanca, Morocco.

April 16th found us in **Casablanca**. We took a 3 & 1/2 hour scenic trip through the countryside to **Marrakech**. Founded in 1070 Marrakech was once considered an important political and cultural center. Now, the city is the most popular destination in **Morocco**.

First picture is the 12th century *Koutoubia Mosque*. It is the largest in **Marrakech**. It is richly decorated with floral designs. At 203 feet, the minaret is one of the oldest in the world. No building in the city is permitted to be taller.



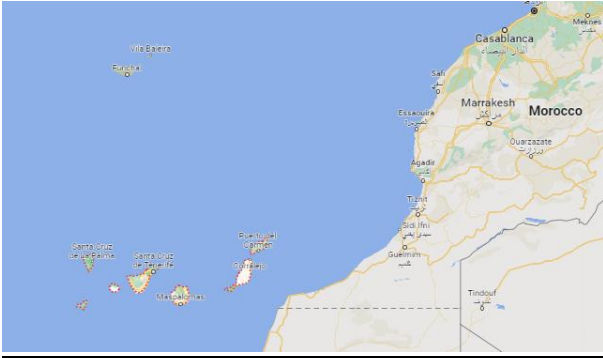
The ceilings in the **Bahia Place**: Built between 1894 and 1900, the name means “*Palace of the Beautiful*”. Rich mosaics may be found throughout the palace. The King of Morocco is occasionally in residence.



A typical market in the city of **Marrakech**

## Canary Islands:

The islands are a semi-autonomous region of Spain. Spanish sovereignty has been recognized since 1479. Population of the islands is about two million. They lie west of Africa with the closest island just 62 miles off the coast of Morocco. They are a favorite vacation destination for many Europeans due to their favorable sub-tropical climate. In the most of the islands, the temperature is usually in the 70s year round. Our first stop was the island of Lanzarote. This is the island closest to Morocco.



A typical street scene in Arrecife, Lanzarote



A unique pair of street performers in town



The island of Santa Cruz de La Palma experienced a volcanic eruption in September 2021. This picture shows the hardened lava from the eruption.

Lastly, the rugged volcanic shoreline of Santa Cruz de La Palma

These were our final two stops before the week long sail across the Atlantic Ocean to Ft. Lauderdale, Florida.

The 110 day cruise around the world is nearing it's end. What an adventure it has been!

Regards,  
Frank



## 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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