



**Published monthly Volume XCIX Issue No. – 2 February A.D. 2024, A.L. 6024**

**Email:** info@JFSwartsel251.org    **Website:** www.jfswartsel251.org    **Phone:** 813-949-4814

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/jfswartsel251](http://www.facebook.com/jfswartsel251)

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

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

W.: Jerry M. Snell Jr. – W.: Stephan Edson – W.: Raymond Ciunci – Br. Allan 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

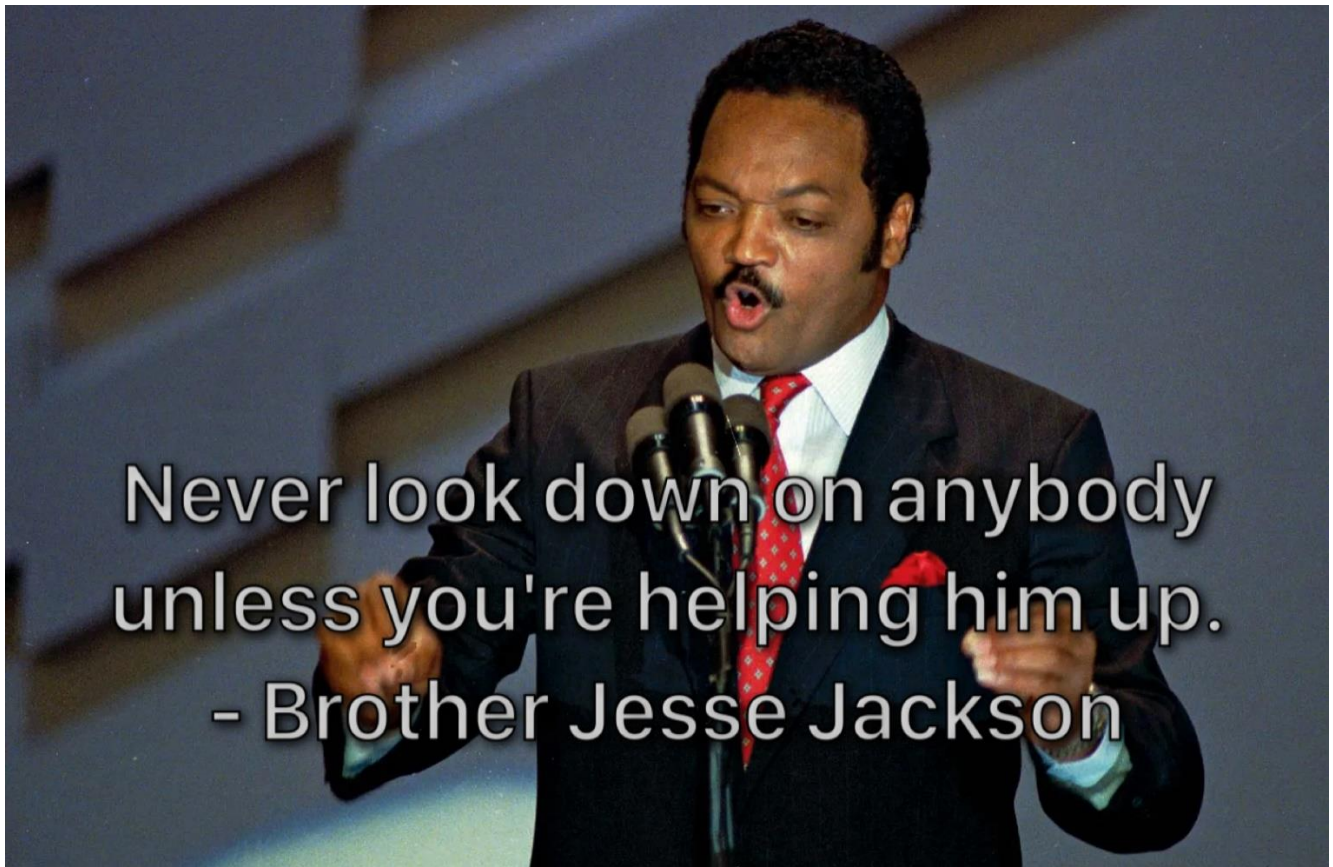
Land O Lakes High School

Steinbrenner High School

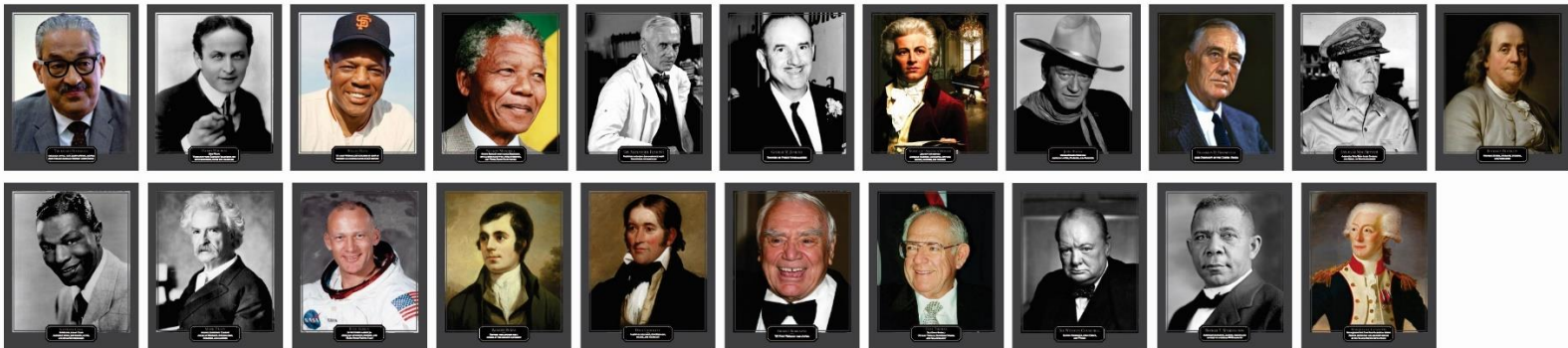
Monthly Bingo jackpots at the Florida Masonic Home in St. Petersburg

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](#)**

Please follow the link to our website for a complete list of past masters.

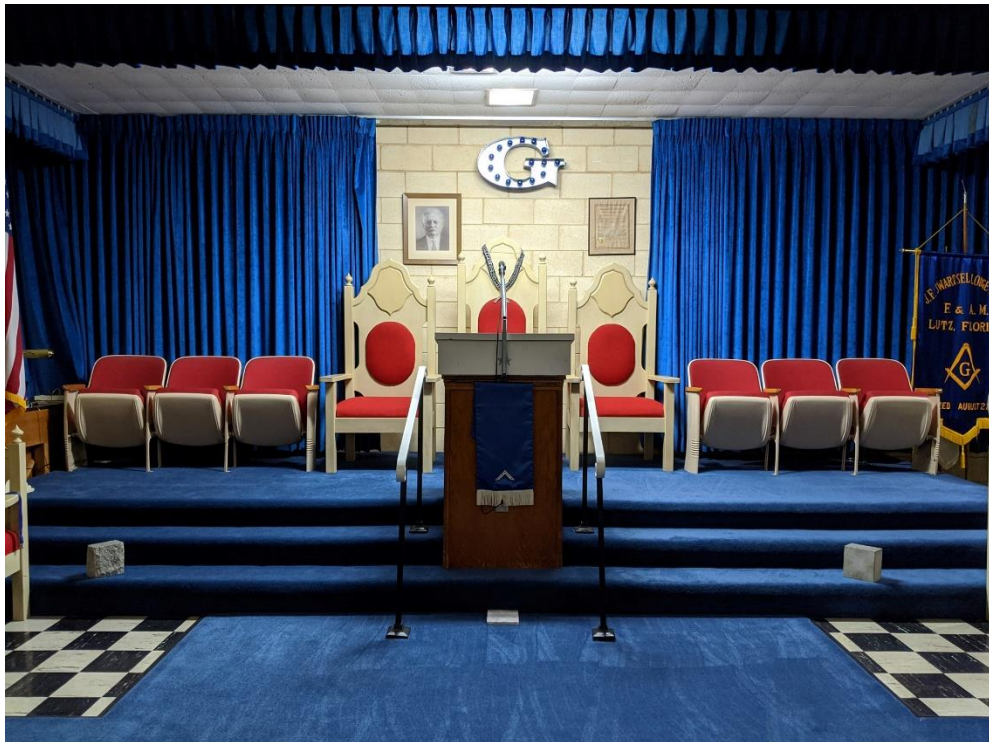
We are working on getting Palma Ciega Past Masters on the website.

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## **Your 2024 J. F. Swartsel Officers are as follows:**

**Worshipful Master** Brother Brian Andrew Reach  
**Senior Warden** Brother Allan Arthur Jenkins  
**Junior Warden** Brother Demetrios Thomas Dellis  
**Treasurer** W ♂ Jeffrey Thomas Sklet  
**Secretary** W ♂ David Bruce Lambert Sr.  
**Chaplain** Br. Thomas Sheehan  
**Marshall** W ♂ Stephen Douglas Edson  
**Senior Deacon** Brother Joe Circhirillo  
**Junior Deacon** Brother Thomas Holland Overman  
**Senior Steward** Brother Dickey Parrish Davis  
**Junior Steward** Brother Jack Jones  
**Tyler** Brother Lamont Richardson  
**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,

**Please check your Dues Card to see if you have paid your 2024 Dues,** and If you have changed your address, please give me a call @ (813) 838-7705 or email me at [dlambert7907@gmail.com](mailto:dlambert7907@gmail.com) so I can update your records.

**(FYI, Circumscribe is no longer available, please mail your 2024 and late due to the Lodge).**

#### Calendar of Important Lodge Dates:

##### February 2024.

- 1<sup>st</sup> Stated Communication of J. F. Swartsel Lodge, Dinner @ 6:30 PM, Lodge Opens at 7:30 PM.**
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Master Mason Degree @ Swartsel, Coffee and donuts @ 9:00 AM, Lodge Opens at 10:00 AM**
- 5<sup>th</sup> 7:30 - Friendship Chapter No. 209 Circle of Friends Night.
- 6<sup>th</sup> 6:30 PM, Degree Practice.
- 7<sup>th</sup> (6:PM – 7:PM, MLT), (7:PM – 8:PM), District School of Instruction @ John Darling No. 154).
- 9<sup>th</sup> 7:PM - Masonic Park Board Meeting @ EGYPT Temple.
- 13<sup>th</sup> 6:30 PM, Degree Practice.
- 15<sup>th</sup> Stated Communication of J. F. Swartsel Lodge, Dinner @ 6:30 PM, Lodge Opens at 7:30 PM**
- 16<sup>th</sup> Third Friday FULL Menu Fish Fry at J.F. Swartsel Lodge – Serving from 5 - 7: PM.**
- 19<sup>th</sup> 7:30 - Friendship Chapter No. 209 meeting.
- 20<sup>th</sup> 6:30 PM, Degree Practice.
- 24<sup>th</sup> 9:AM – Noon, Open Books at Zone School of Instruction @ Brandon Lodge No. 114.
- 26<sup>th</sup> 6:30 – 8:30 Master Mason Association of Hillsborough County @ EGYPT Shrine.
- 27<sup>th</sup> 6:30 PM, Degree Practice.
- 29<sup>th</sup> 6:30 PM, Family Night at J. F. Swartsel Lodge No. 251.

## **From the Worshipful Master: Brother Brian Reach**

The 2024 Installation of Officers and my first meeting in the East was an amazing experience! My thanks go out to all the Brothers and Past Masters who help me prepare for this great honor.

We will be resuming our Lodge visitation program in the coming year. We will be publishing a tentative schedule for the year in the near future.

At this time there are two visits scheduled:

PTF United: Tuesday February 6  
Hillsborough 25 Tuesday March 26

We have a Family Night coming up on Thursday February 29th. We will be going out to a restaurant again; however, the restaurant has not been selected yet.

We hope our Holyrood Brothers will be able to join us again.

My focus this year will be on the kitchen. There are a number of maintenance items to correct, including: 1) creating more refrigerator space for food by buying a new drink display case which will be placed in the dining room as soon as we can manage. 2) Repair/replace the stoves because they are unreliable.

We had the most Brothers at the Master Masons Association's January meeting! Well done and thanks to all TEN Brothers who came out!

I am looking forward to the coming year ... as we continue to improve and grow our Lodge with the help of all the Brothers!

Hope to see you in Lodge soon!

Fraternally yours,  
Brian Reach

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

My Brothers, I hope your 2024 has started off well.

I want to start my new year by communicating the traveling that we will be doing each month as well as communicating with you about the upcoming degrees. We will keep this section of the Trestle Board dedicated to getting this information out for all to read and hopefully this will increase our attendance and participation at all events in our area.

Traveling: It is very exciting that we have brought traveling back this year. Traveling brings our lodge closer together and we build great friendships with other lodges. This simple act helps grow our bonds and our fraternity. Our first visit of 2024 will be to PTF United. The Address is 4712 W. Commerce St., Tampa, FL 33616. Dinner starts at 6:30 p.m. and the meeting starts promptly at 7:30 p.m. let's get at least 10 of us to show up to this event and surprise W.M. Alan Lawton.

Upcoming Degree: We will be having our first degree of 2024 on Saturday, February 3rd. This will be a Master Mason degree for our very own brother Denis Monefeldt. This Degree starts off with donuts and coffee at 9:00 a.m. then the degree starts promptly at 10:00 a.m. After the degree we will have lunch to celebrate the next step in his journey. Please let every brother you know about this event and let's pack the sidelines.

Once the Master Mason degree is completed we will start having Degree Practice for the Entered Apprentice Degree. I share this information to inform everyone out there that you can participate in these degrees. You do not have to be in the currently line as an officer. We all need to grow our Masonic knowledge and being in the degree is a great way to get started doing that. We have practice Tuesday nights at 6:30 p.m. I would be great to see some new faces getting involved. If you are interested get in touch with our Senior Deacon Joe Circhirillo. He would be happy to talk to you.

Hope to see you all soon!

Allan Jenkins S.W.

## **From the Junior Warden: Brother Demetrios Dellis**

Dinner for the 2/1/2024 meeting will be chicken parm over penne pasta!

Fraternally,  
Demetrios Dellis

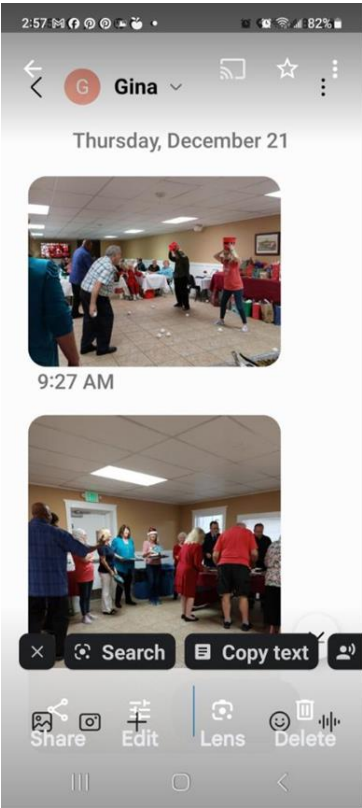
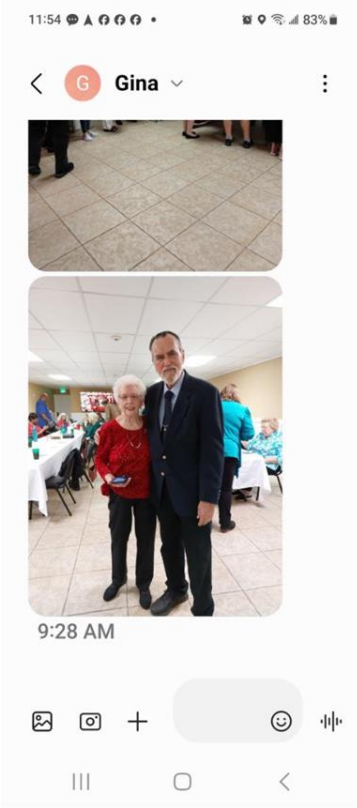
## **A message from the Worthy Matron: Sister Barbara Grant**

This being my last letter As Worthy Matron of Friendship Chapter #209, as my last meeting to serve our Chapter will be February 19, 2024. It has been an honor to serve in this capacity and better yet, to have our Masonic Brothers join in our Order and to have the Masons and their families enjoy fun and fellowship with us. I appreciate Bro. Wade, P.M. and Bro Brian, W.M., and all our Brothers for the interest you have shown in our organizations to help make this happen as we lighten our active duties by having social activities together. By the time this is shared, we will have initiated 5 Brothers and 2 Sisters. We have 4 Brothers who currently serve as officers in our Chapter, and 3 not currently serving. We look forward to the 7 new members to join us in our meetings. My prayer is this will continue and in the future to have our Masons, Wives and family members join our Order. It is always a pleasure to see a couple attend and travel to other Chapters together. We are the largest fraternal organization where both men and women may become members. We are blessed and I wish for members of both fraternities enjoyment for the future and always remember "the more you put into it, the more you get out of it".

Star Love,  
Barbara Gant, Worthy Matron  
2023-2024

# What have we been up to?

Friendship Chapter No. 209 Christmas Party





1/1/2024 Thanks to all the Brothers and their families for coming out to enjoy some good food and fellowship on New Year's Day. A special thanks to Brother John Nagy for donating most of the food and Brother Jenkins for coordinating the day. We watched a couple of football games on the new TVs and ate too much. Here's to a great start to another fun filled year at Swartsel!





1/1/2024 we received a great message from London. Through our fundraising efforts, we were able to sponsor a member of the Steinbrenner Warriors Marching band as they traveled to London to perform in the New Year's Day Parade. The best part is the Warrior we sponsored was our one and only Riley Sheehan daughter of Brother Tom Sheehan. Tom and Riley's dedication to our Lodge made it an easy decision to sponsor her on this trip. They are always there to help. Follow the link for the video.

<https://www.facebook.com/jfswartsel251/videos/938100934411283>

1/3/2024 District School of Instruction at John Darling. Be there by 7:00 to be counted so we can retain the Column under Construction.

MLT will be offered at 6:00.


Come out for fun and fellowship and you might learn something.

## District 19

# School of Instruction

District School of Instruction is a great place for Master Masons to learn more about the ritual and special ceremonies. Master Masons only.

First Wednesday Most Months  
Held at John Darling Lodge  
4601 N Habana Ave Tampa  
MLT at 6pm  
District School at 7pm  
Done by 8pm



Right Honorable Adam S. Feldman, District Instructor

251 wins the Column under Construction award for the second straight month... and we also have the Traveling Gavel! Want to see the only two awards District 19 gives conveniently located at one place?



1/10/2024 Installation of Officers practice. Come on out on Saturday 1/13/2024 for the real thing. Installation starts at 10:00.  
Coffee and donuts at 8:00



1/13/2024 Installation of 2024 Officers. We want to congratulate the newly installed Officers. We also want to thank all the friends and family who came out to support us. Special thanks to the Installing Officers, RWDDGM Billy Scott, R.: W.: Robert I Moore and W.: Sam McPherson. Also, we want to thank Worthy Matron Barbara Gant and the rest of the Sisters from Friendship Chapter No. 209 for coming out to support the new Officers. We are very grateful to Sister Cindy Long, i. e. The Kitchen Goddess for cooking the meal. Here is to a fun and productive year!

















1/16/2024 Degree Practice. Getting ready for our upcoming Master Mason Degree.



1/18/2024 W.: M.: Reach's first meeting. Thanks to everyone for coming out to support him. We even had a couple special guests, M.: W.: Robert Lambert and R.: W.: Ben Schwartz. R.: W.: Schwartz gave his presentation on why he is running for Junior Grand Warden. Very interesting and informative. A good time was had by all.

PS: Swartsel still has the Traveling Gavel 😊





1/19/2024 Fish Fry - If you missed the fish fry, you missed a good one! See you all on the 3rd Friday in February for the next one!





1/22/2024 Master Mason Association - great turn out for the meeting. Swartsel had so many we took up two tables! Thanks Brothers for the support!



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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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