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

Facebook: www.facebook.com/jfswartsel251

Meetings: 1st and 3rd Thursdays

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

W.: M.: Allan Jenkins - R.: H.: Adam Feldman - W.: Jerry M. Snell Jr. – W.: Marty Greif –
 W.: Wade Angel – Br. Jack Jones – Br. Denis Monefeldt –
 Br. Per-Henrik Nordstrom – Br. Carlos Perez – Br. Anthony DeLuna

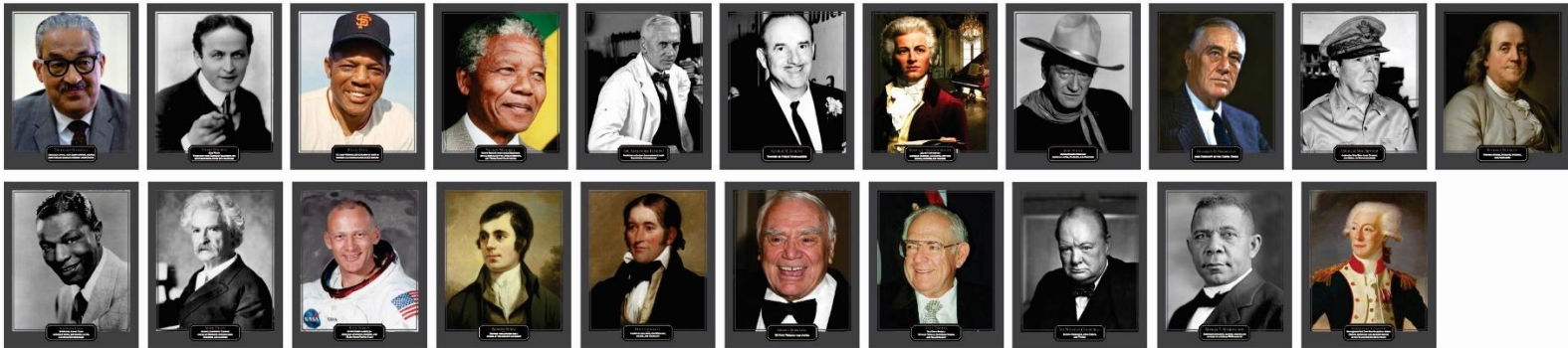


Who does J. F. Swartsel Lodge support in the community?

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.

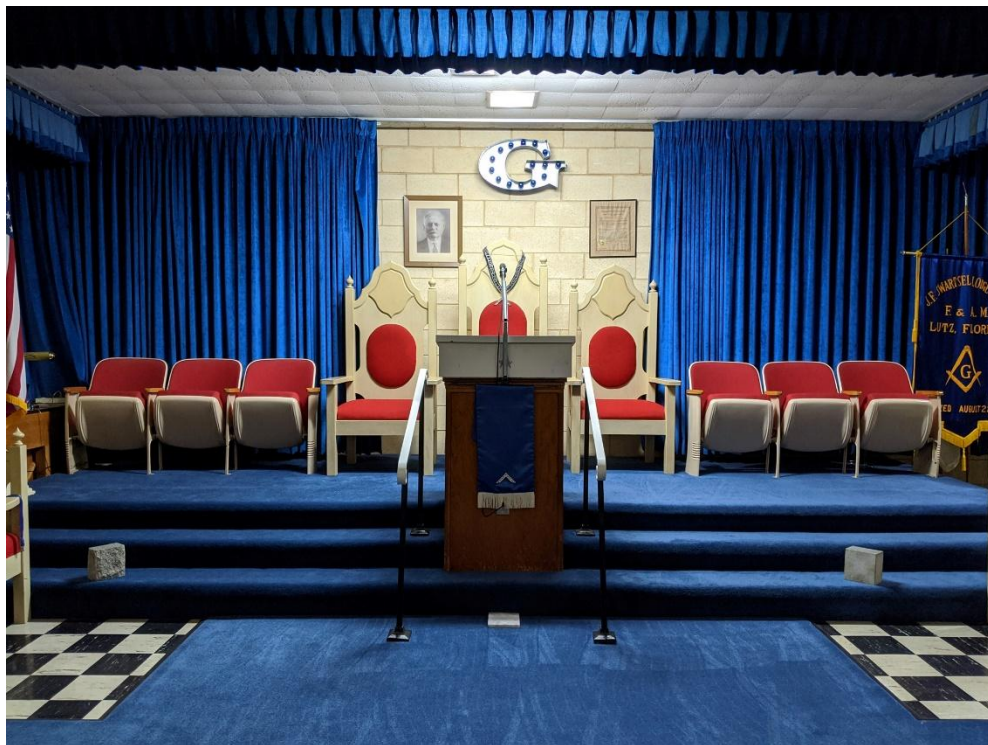
Thank you to **all** of our Past Masters - Who laid the foundation for us to build upon

[The Past Masters of J.F. Swartsel, Palma Ceia and Community Lodge](#)

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

Your 2025 J. F. Swartsel Officers are as follows:

Worshipful Master Brother Allan Arthur Jenkins
Senior Warden Brother Joe Circhirillo
Junior Warden Brother Thomas Holland Overman
Treasurer R :: H :: Jeffrey Thomas Sklet
Secretary W :: David Bruce Lambert Sr.
Chaplain Br. Jason Warren Schein
Marshall W :: Brian Andrew Reach
Senior Deacon Brother Jack Wilbur Jones
Junior Deacon Brother Denis Graham Monefeldt
Senior Steward Brother Kyle John Jesso
Junior Steward Brother Jose Lao Labasbas Jr.
Tyler Brother Jose Luis Valdes Jr.
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 2025 Dues, and 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.

Calendar of Important Lodge Dates:

August 2025.

- 2nd 8:AM – 12:PM Lodge Workday.
- 5th 6:30 PM, Degree Practice.
- 6th (6:PM – 7:PM, MLT), (7:PM – 8:PM), District 19 School of Instruction @ Scottish Rite Masonic Center.
- 7th DDGM'S Official Visit, Stated Communication of J. F. Swartsel Lodge, Dinner 6:30 PM, Lodge Opens at 7:30 PM**
- 8th 7:PM - Masonic Park Board Meeting @ EGYPT Temple.
- 11th 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM, Open Books at Zone School of Instruction – Universal Lodge No. 178
- 12th 6:30 PM, Degree Practice.
- 15th 5:PM – 7:PM, Third Friday FULL Menu Fish Fry at J.F. Swartsel.**
- 16th Trestleboard Articles to W.: Allen Jenkins & W.: Jeff Sklet.
- 16th Master Mason I, II & III, @ Hillsborough.
- 16th 3:PM, DeMolay Installation at Brandon Lodge No. 114.
- 19th 6:30 PM, Degree Practice.
- 21st Stated Communication of J. F. Swartsel Lodge, Dinner 6:30 PM, Lodge Opens at 7:30 PM.**
- 22nd 7:PM, DeMolay.
- 23rd 9:AM – Noon, Open Books at Zone School of Instruction – Brandon Lodge No.114.
- 26th 6:30 PM, Degree Practice.
- 30th 9:AM Clay Shoot at Silver Dollar Shooters Club. 17202 Target Way, Odessa, FL 33556.

From the Worshipful Master: Worshipful Allan Jenkins

My Brothers,

What is happening at J.F. Swartsel you ask?

Exciting Summer Momentum at the Lodge

As we move through the dog days of summer, the light of Masonry continues to shine brightly at our lodge. Despite the heat, our commitment to fellowship, growth, and brotherly love remains as strong as ever.

Traveling to Spread Light

In August, we will be traveling to at least one other lodge to show support, build bonds, and share in the timeless traditions that unite us all. These visits are a meaningful reminder that Masonry goes beyond the walls of our own lodge, make sure to look at the lodge calendar for the upcoming lodge visits.

Welcoming New Brothers

We are also preparing for an Entered Apprentice degree this month, continuing the proud work of bringing new men into our fraternity. So far this year, we have raised three Brothers to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason and initiated four others. That's seven Brothers already this year—an exciting sign of our lodge's vitality and future.

Growth and Gratitude

Our lodge is growing not just in numbers, but in strength, unity, and shared purpose. Every new Brother brings energy and perspective that enriches our collective experience. Let us continue to welcome them warmly and guide them with the light we've all received. We will have a skeet shoot event August 30th at Silver Dollar. This event will encourage teamwork and build bonds that will last a lifetime.

Check on a Brother

Lastly, as the summer heat lingers, let us not forget one of our most important obligations—looking after each other. If there's a Brother you haven't seen in a while, reach out. A simple call or message can mean a great deal. Masonry is built on the bonds we forge, and it's up to each of us to keep those bonds strong.

Let's keep the momentum going and continue building a lodge we're all proud to call home.

Fraternally,

W:. M:. Allan A. Jenkins

From the Senior Warden: Brother Joe Circhirillo

My Brothers,

I want to thank all the Brothers who called, messaged or came by to see me while I was in the hospital. It made me feel good to know I have Brothers out there who care for each other. I should be strong in a few weeks but I still have to take it easy the next couple of weeks. I want to thank all the Brothers who filled in for me at the fish fry. It was another money maker for our charities. Don't ever take your health for granted. You never know when somethings going to happen. Stay strong Brothers, stay Swartsel strong

Fraternally,

Brother Joe Circhirillo

From the Junior Warden: Brother Thomas Overman

First and foremost a special thanks for all the support for my trip to the East. A special thanks to Brother Monefeldt and Worshipful Master Jenkins for the extra tutoring.

Menus for upcoming meetings:

7th meeting, DDGM, Jeremy Tabak's visit:

Parmesan Crusted Chicken, green beans, glazed carrots, cake and vanilla ice cream.

August 21st Meeting Menu:

Meatloaf, mashed potatoes, gravy, blackeyed peas and cookies.

Fraternally,

Brother Thomas Overman

From the Senior Deacon: Brother Jack Jones

The FC Degree & The Winding Staircase : *a 3-Part Series*

My Brothers: With the initiation of 4 Entered Apprentices due to be competed in July and August (next EA Deg. 8/19)... in the Fall, we will be "passing" these Brothers to the degree of Fellow Craft. So, I've revisited some of the core concepts of this degree.

The Fellow Craft degree is truly transformative for the developing Brother, focusing on intellectual and moral development. It emphasizes the importance of education, knowledge, and the pursuit of wisdom. It also encourages Brothers to explore the liberal arts and sciences, and to deepen their understanding of the world around them. This sacred, and often "under-appreciated," Degree, is all about personal growth, intellectual curiosity, and continuing the journey towards enlightenment.

The Winding Staircase in Freemasonry is a symbolic element that represents the journey of self-improvement and spiritual ascent. Each step symbolizes a virtue or a lesson to be learned, and the staircase itself signifies progress and the continuous path of personal growth. It's a pretty neat symbol!

— The numbers three, five, and seven are significant in Freemasonry because they symbolize various important concepts. The number three often represents the three principal stages of life or the three key virtues. The number five can represent the five senses or the five orders of architecture. The number seven is often linked to the seven liberal arts and sciences, as well as the seven steps to wisdom. Together, they emphasize a journey of enlightenment and deeper understanding.

Part 1

The Core virtues of Freemasonry

In Freemasonry, **Beauty**, **Wisdom**, and **Strength** are core virtues often symbolized in both ritual and architecture. Here are some of the key symbols associated with each

1. Wisdom

Wisdom is the ability to apply knowledge and good judgment. In Masonic symbolism, it is often associated with leadership and thoughtful planning.

Symbols of Wisdom:

- **The Worshipful Master's Station in the East** – Symbolizes the rising sun and enlightenment.
- **The Pillar of Wisdom (Solomon)** – King Solomon, who is renowned for his wisdom, represents this virtue.
- **The All-Seeing Eye** – Often interpreted as divine wisdom and awareness.
- **The Letter "G"** – Can represent both Geometry and God, tying wisdom to divine and mathematical order.

2. Strength

Strength is the capacity to uphold principles, maintain faith, and support the structure (literal and metaphorical).

Symbols of Strength:

- **The Senior Warden's Station in the West** – Where the sun sets, symbolizing completion and stability.
- **The Pillar of Strength (Hiram of Tyre)** – He provided the materials and labor to build the Temple, symbolizing steadfast support.
- **The Doric Column** – Represents robust and plain strength in classical architecture.
- **The Square** – A tool that represents moral rectitude and strong character.

3. Beauty

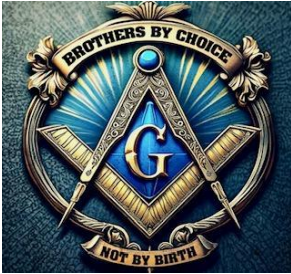
Beauty reflects harmony, proportion, and the aesthetic ideal—both in physical construction and character.

Symbols of Beauty:

- **The Junior Warden's Station in the South** – Noon, the height of light and activity.
- **The Pillar of Beauty (Hiram Abiff)** – The architect of the Temple, representing artistic skill and design.
- **The Corinthian Column** – The most ornate order of architecture, symbolizing beauty and elegance.
- **The Compasses** – Represent balance, grace, and moral boundaries.

I will follow up with future articles describing the Important allegorical concepts (5 and 7 stairs) relating to The Winding Stairs portion of the Fellow Craft degree. *Thank You and standby for Parts 3 & 4 - Coming Soon!*

Fraternally,
Bro. Jack Jones, Sr.Deacon



A message from Community DeMolay Chapter

A message from Friendship Chapter #209 Liaison: Sister Barbara Grant

In honor of our 100-year anniversary, this is the original Lodge building from back in the day



What have we been up to?

July 3rd Stated Communication - A little lite of a turnout for us but still great to see all the Brothers who did come out. A lot of laughter and good fellowship. As always, our Junior Warden made a delicious meal.



Please join us in congratulating 4 of our newest Master Masons, who were awarded their aprons tonight.



7/3/2025 After meeting, meeting. Best part of stated meeting night. Solving the world's problems with some of the Brothers.





HAPPY 4TH OF JULY!!!

Last evening, members of our DeMolay team traveled to Dade City for the DDGM's official visit and to hear the inspiring words of the Masonic Youth Committee Chair. It was a beautiful evening filled with brotherly love and fellowship.



Last night, J.F. Swartsel Lodge had the distinct honor of welcoming our newest Brother into the Craft. The occasion was made all the more special by the presence of several visiting Brethren from A.W. Windhorst Lodge, whose fellowship and support truly embodied the spirit of fraternal unity. This gathering served as a reminder of the strength of our Masonic bonds and the importance of coming together to uphold our timeless traditions. We extend our heartfelt congratulations to our newly initiated Brother and express our gratitude to everyone who participated and attended. May this be the first of many enriching experiences on his Masonic journey.



The celebration continued after the Degree as we descended on our favorite watering hole. Thanks to everyone who came out. A fun time was had by all!



Morning FC degree where the staircase is real! – Road trip to Bartow to see the beautiful Tuscan Lodge No. 6



Officer's Meeting. Planning the second half of the year. Shaping up to be a lot of fun and educational. We'll be gassing up the Swartsel bus and making some road trips to see our Brothers around the Bay.



Stated Communication Night - Great turnout for the middle of Summer. Thank you, Brothers, for coming out and supporting your Lodge! Another tasty meal from our Junior Warden. We reviewed some fun events coming up in the next few months.



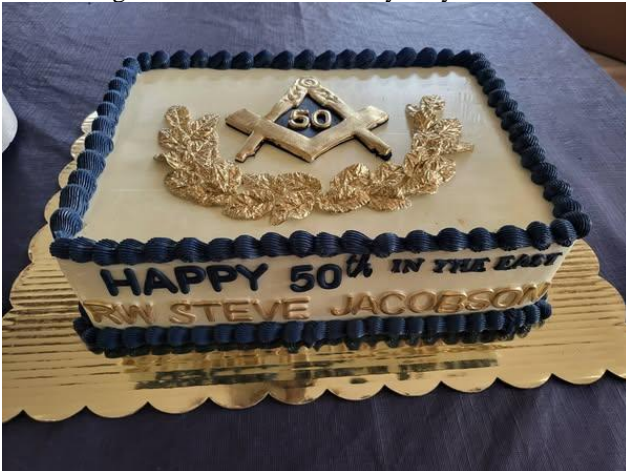
Thank you, Tampa!

Another fantastic turnout at our Fish Fry in support of local charities. Your generosity makes a difference every time.

Mark your calendars — we'll be back on August 15th. See you then!



Celebrating a Brother's extraordinary 50-year milestone at Hillsborough 25. Congratulations R.: W.: Jacobson



At A.W. Windhorst Lodge for their Entered Apprentice Degree , with enough of us to open an EA Lodge of our own!
Thank you for your warm hospitality ...Excellent fellowship, as always, from our Brothers of 185!





Monthly Master Mason Association of Hillsborough County meeting. Great turnout from the Brothers of Hillsborough County and an okay turnout from the Brothers of Swartsel. Maybe next month.



J.F. SWARTSEL LODGE NO 251

FISH FRY

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Hooked
on Our...

friday

5 - 7pm

AUGUST 15, 2025

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FOR MORE INFORMATION: WWW.JFSWARTSEL251.ORG

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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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