



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



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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

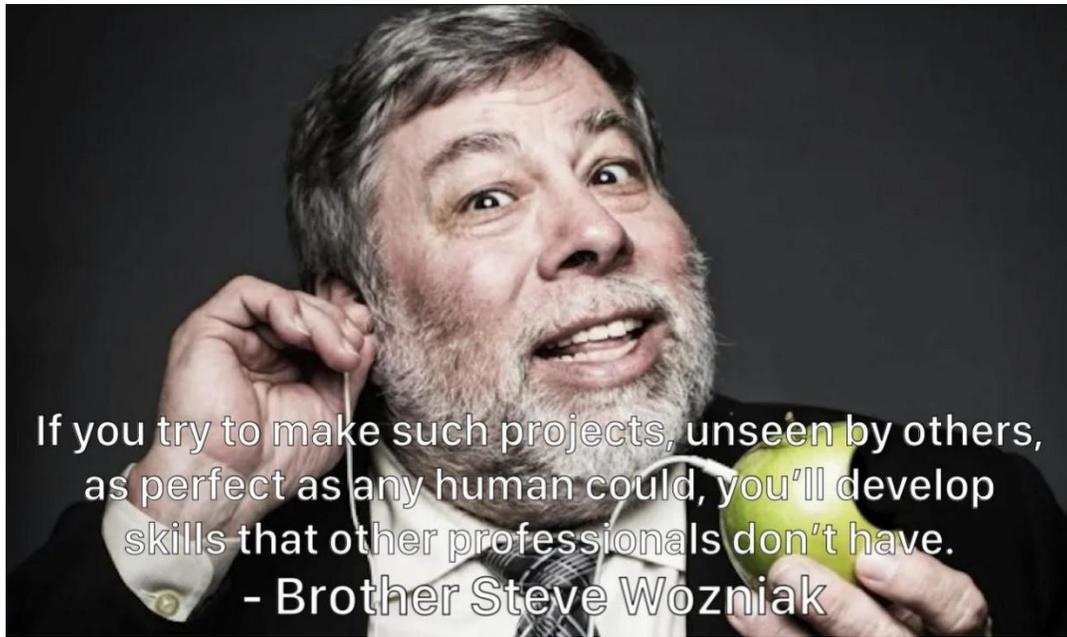
Land O Lakes High School

Steinbrenner High School

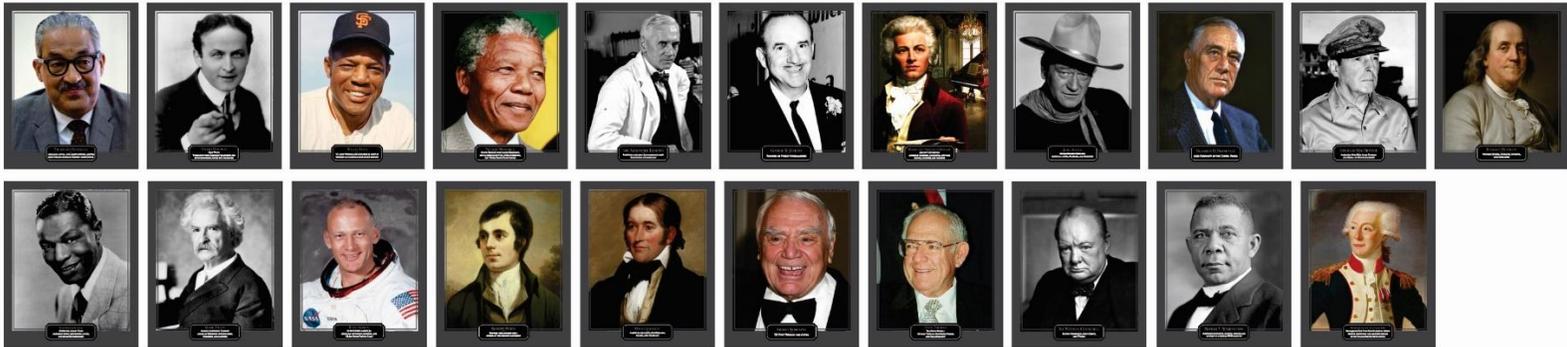
Monthly Bingo jackpots at the Florida Masonic Home in St. Petersburg

Metropolitan Ministries

The Joshua House



If they could do the things they did then,

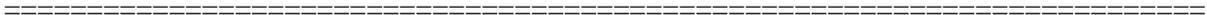


imagine the things that we can do now.

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

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

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



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

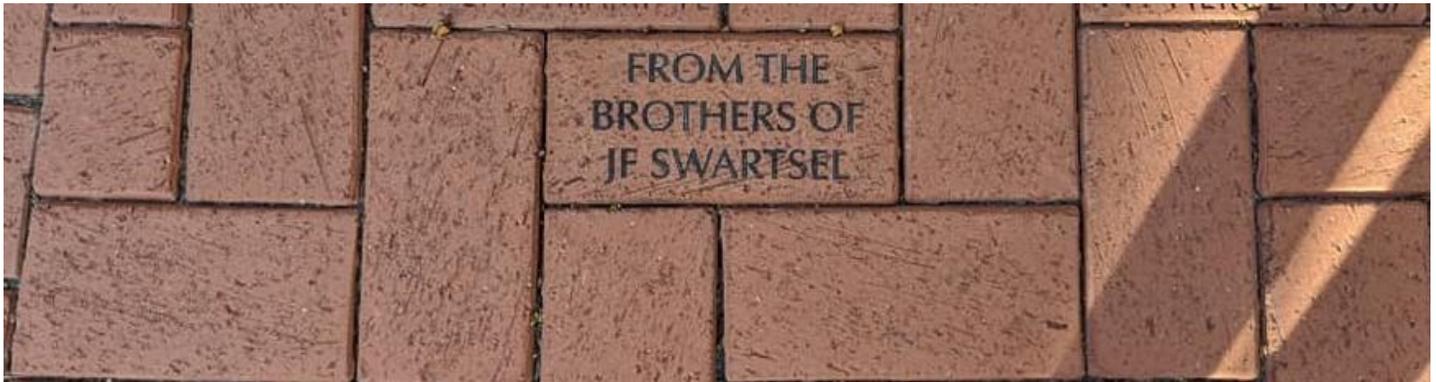
Worshipful Master Brother Allan Arthur Jenkins
Senior Warden Brother Joe Circhirillo
Junior Warden Brother Thomas Holland Overman
Treasurer R : H : Jeffrey Thomas Sklet
Secretary W : David Bruce Lambert Sr.
Chaplain Br. Jason Warren Schein
Marshall W : Brian Andrew Reach
Senior Deacon Brother Jack Wilbur 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:

November 2025.

- 4th 6:30 PM, Degree Practice.
- 5th (6:PM – 7:PM, MLT), (7:PM – 8:PM), District 19 School of Instruction @ John Darling Masonic Center.
- 6th Stated Communication of J. F. Swartsel Lodge, Dinner 6:30 PM, Lodge Opens at 7:30 PM.**
- 11th 6:30 PM, Degree Practice.
- 14th 7:PM - Masonic Park Board Meeting @ EGYPT Temple.
- 15th District 19 & 20 Annual Fishing trip, Two Georges, 810 Dodecanese Blvd Tarpon Springs, FL 34689
- 17th 7:30 PM – Friendship Chapter No. 209 meeting.
- 18th 6:30 PM, Degree Practice.
- 20th Stated Communication of J. F. Swartsel Lodge, Dinner 6:30 PM, Lodge Opens at 7:30 PM.**
- 21st Trestleboard Articles to W.: Allen Jenkins & W.: Jeff Sklet.
- 22nd 9:AM – Noon, Open Books at Zone School of Instruction @ Universal John Darling Masonic Center.
- 24th 6:30 – 8:30 Master Mason Association of Hillsborough County @ EGYPT Shrine.**
- 25th 6:30 PM, Degree Practice.
- 28th 7:PM, DeMolay.

From the Worshipful Master: Worshipful Allan Jenkins

My Brothers.

October was another outstanding month for our lodge, filled with brotherhood, fellowship, and continued growth.

We're proud to share that we **retained both the Column Under Construction and the Traveling Gavel**, demonstrating our continued commitment and participation within the district. These honors are a testament to the dedication and unity of our members who consistently show up to represent our lodge with pride.

Our **Bowling Night** was a huge success, drawing **19 brothers, family members, and friends** for an evening of laughter, competition, and camaraderie. Events like these remind us that the bonds we build extend beyond the lodge room, they strengthen our fraternity and our families alike.

We also **visited Dunedin Lodge**, continuing our efforts to build strong relationships with our neighboring lodges. These visits not only promote fellowship but also embody the true spirit of Masonry—connection, support, and shared purpose.

Lastly, we hosted our **final Family Night of the year**, which was a wonderful success. The evening was filled with good food, good company, and heartfelt conversations—a fitting close to another great year of family engagement and community connection.

Looking Ahead – Closing Out 2025 Strong

As we move into the final months of the year, we're excited for two special events to close out 2025:

Fishing Trip – November 15, 2025

Join us for a day on the water as we enjoy fellowship, fun, and a little friendly competition. It's a great opportunity to relax, connect, and reflect on a year well spent.

Annual Farmer's Degree – December 6, 2025

Our annual tradition continues as we honor our roots and close the year with one of the most anticipated events on our calendar. Don't miss this special night of ritual, fellowship, and celebration.

A Closing Reflection

As we approach the end of the year, let us pause to reflect on the strength of our brotherhood. Every meeting, every event, and every shared laugh has reinforced the timeless truth that *Freemasonry is not built by stone, but by men united in purpose*. May we carry that spirit into the new year—stronger, wiser, and ever committed to the craft.

Fraternally,

W.:M.: Allan A. Jenkins

From the Senior Warden: Brother Joe Circhirillo

Brothers,

Our last fish fry for the year was a success. We made money! I look forward to us starting the fish fry back up in January. I want to thank all the Brothers who helped out this year with the fish fries. My heart goes out to you. I can't do it all that work by myself and it's you Brothers that make it a success and without you we couldn't do anything. I thank you, thank you, thank you for your help. I am looking forward to the holidays. I am also looking forward to next year. I'm sure the Worshipful Master is looking forward to his retirement where he can relax. His year is almost over and we have had a good year with WM Jenkins.

Fraternally,
Brother Joe Circhirillo

From the Junior Warden: Brother Thomas Overman

Nov 6th menu: Hungry Harry's Bar b que pulled pork and pulled chicken, baked beans, potato salad, banana pudding.

Nov 20th menu: Salisbury steak mashed potatoes, green beans, dessert.

Fraternally,
Brother Thomas Overman

From the Senior Deacon: Brother Jack Jones

My Brothers, as Masons, we are all too familiar with changes, obstacles and workarounds on our own personal journeys, as well as those of our Lodge and Craft as a Brotherhood. Well, we have an adjustment to our upcoming work in "Passing" Brothers Bagnuik and Curtain to the degree of Fellow Craft via the "Farmers Degree." The date of the degree has been moved to **December 6th**, in order to give the Brothers additional practice, education and preparation for their EA give-back slated for November.

Let us now continue with a parallel theme to the intellectual and moral maturity of a Fellow Craft *beyond* that of the Winding Staircase...

There exists an even *Holier* symbol connecting a Brother Mason to the pursuit of Truth and ascent to Enlightenment...

Jacobs Ladder

As we have reviewed in Freemasonry, the middle chamber of King Solomon's Temple is often symbolic of knowledge, wisdom, and the pursuit of "light." It represents a place of learning and growth, where masons gain deeper understanding and moral lessons: it is also the key allegorical setting for the *Fellow Craft* degree. Symbols like *Jacobs Ladder* or the winding staircase are used to represent elevation to higher knowledge and spiritual revelations.

__ In Masonic tradition, *The Ladder* is a powerful symbol that usually represents the journey of self-improvement and spiritual ascent. It's often depicted with rungs or steps, and each rung symbolizes a different virtue or lesson, like faith, hope, charity, and so on. The ladder also represents the connection between the earthly realm and the divine, with each step bringing the individual closer to enlightenment and wisdom. It is truly a rich and meaningful symbol in our Noble Fraternity.

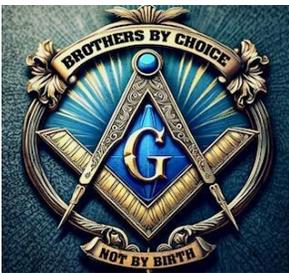
__ In Freemasonry, the ladder is often depicted as having three, five, or even seven rungs, depending on the Masonic tradition or degree. Each rung represents a particular virtue or moral lesson. For example, in the three-rung ladder, you might have faith, hope, and charity. In a five-rung ladder, you could have the three theological virtues—faith, hope, and charity—plus prudence and temperance. And with a seven-rung ladder, you'd have even more virtues, including justice and fortitude. Each rung is essentially a step on the path of moral and spiritual growth, guiding Masons toward enlightenment and self-improvement.

__ The *power* of the symbolism of *Jacobs Ladder* directly connects all Masons to the Great Geometrician of the Universe by way of the ancient scripture of the Holy Bible found in

Genesis 28: "And he dreamed, and behold a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven; and behold the angels of God ascending and descending on it."

The Masonic Dream of Heavenly Enlightenment

Fraternally,
Bro. Jack Jones, Sr. Deacon



A message from Community DeMolay Chapter

Outdoor Lodge Conclave at The Masonic Park

This past weekend, members of our District gathered at the outdoor lodge room of The Masonic Park for a memorable conclave celebrating both tradition and fellowship. The setting — with its rustic wooden seating, torchlight, and stone altar — provided a striking and symbolic backdrop for the conferral of the DeMolay Initiatory and DeMolay Degrees.

The day began at 9:00 a.m. with the Initiatory Degree, conducted with dignity amid the natural beauty and quiet solemnity of the park. As evening fell, the DeMolay Degree was conferred by torchlight, the surrounding forest lending an atmosphere of reverence that enhanced the ritual's lessons and underscored the timeless principles of our Order.

Following the formal proceedings, members and guests joined around the campfire for an evening of fellowship. Through shared reflection, conversation, and good humor, the bonds of brotherhood were strengthened, providing a vivid reminder of the enduring spirit of DeMolay.

This outdoor conclave served as both a tribute to our heritage and an inspiration for the future, demonstrating that the lessons and friendships of DeMolay extend far beyond the walls of any lodge building. Plans are already under consideration to make this event a lasting annual tradition within our Lodge calendar.

Calling All Young Men!

DeMolay offers young men the opportunity to develop leadership, character, and lifelong friendships while having fun and serving their communities. If you are between the ages of 12 and 21 and want to be part of something meaningful, adventurous, and rewarding, consider joining Community DeMolay today!

A message from Plant City York Rite

Plant City York Rite Bodies at J.F. Swartsel are on the rise!

As promised, we did receive new members in October and they showed up at the first meeting they could. Plant City York Rite assisted with the Fall Festival held at the Tamp York Rite and hosted by Districts 2 and 3. A good time was had by all.

We have gone back to having our meals at the Lodge before the meeting. This helps us keep cost down and assures most of make it to the meeting on time. 😊 There is a renewed energy at our York Rite and it is good to see. Everyone is excited to help and try new roles.

The best part? We're only getting started.

A message from Tampa Scottish Rite

October was a busy month for the Scottish Rite as well. We had a Fall Reunion where we brought in many new members. Several of which were from J.F. Swartsel. November is going to be another busy month as we will be having Honors weekend on November 8th. The weekend will consist of investiture of our new Knight Commander Court of Honor (KCCH) members as well as the coronation of our new Illustrious 33^o members during the day and a banquet to follow in the evening.

A message from Frienship Chapter No. 209 Order of the Eastern Star

Star Love

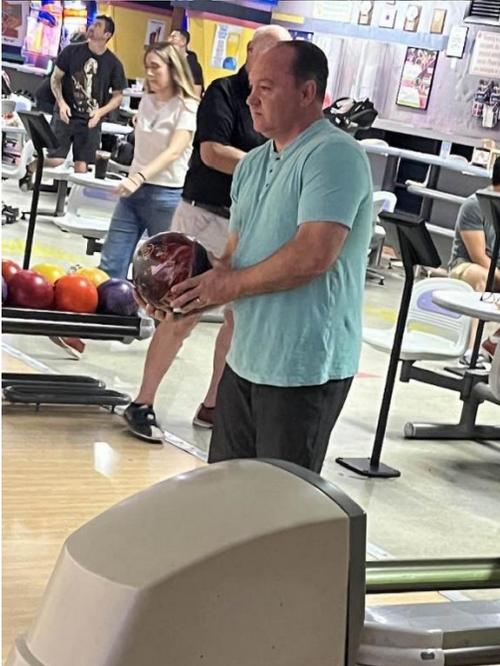
Barbara Gant, P.M. Friendship Chapter #209
Grand Representative of New Hampshire in Florida and
Co Chairman Perpetual Membership

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



What have we been up to?

J. F. Swartsel Lodge No. 251 monthly Lodge outing , these folks are good. Fun and Fellowship was had by all.



Congratulations to the Brothers of Swartsel! We retained the Column under Construction at District School last night. Unfortunately, we did not take any pictures of the crowd that was in attendance. Fortunately, we did take pics at the after meeting. It got interesting when R.: H.: Feldman started singing. [Follow this link for the video.](#)



Stated Communication Night! Good food and fellowship. Nice picture of the Traveling Gavel and Column Under Construction under supervision of our Worshipful Master.



Swartzel at the Shrine. Great seeing all the Brothers from Swartzel at the Shrine meeting last night. If you want to join the fun just anyone in the picture for a petition. Great fun and philanthropy! [#beashriner](#)



Congratulations to all the Newsiest Sir Knights! ✨ The adventure is only beginning — onward in faith, fellowship, and service!



Our very own R.:W.: Gil Weisman bringing Light to the Brethren at the Tampa Scottish Rite for Feast of Tishri.



Oktoberfest at Swartzel! Great meal by Brother Overman with the Brats and sauerkraut with German potatoes. Thanks for all the Brothers for coming and supporting your Lodge. We had EA catechism going on as well as a few new potential visitors! 🍷🍻

[#SwartzelStrong](#)



Celebrating two of our own phenomenal women who uplift us with laughter and motivation, elevating our Fry magic to unprecedented heights.



Last fish fry of the year was a huge success! Thanks for all the friends and family for coming out to support us. An even bigger thank you to all the Brothers who came out to help. It was the best turnout of the year. We all had a lot of fun! [#SwartselStrong](#)



I love the smell of gun powder in the morning! Today four intrepid Brothers from Swartsel traveled down south to take on the hordes from district 20 in a little clay shooting competition. Unfortunately, we came up a little short. Congratulations to De Soto Lodge. We'll be "gunning" for you next time. A big thanks to Brandon Lodge for hosting the event. We raised some money for their scholarship fund. Weather was perfect. Thank you Steve Fortier, Bo Caudell, Jeff Sklet and Per Henrik Nordstrom for a valiant effort.



Fun and Fellowship at our Heart Dance fund raiser, thank all who participated and care about stopping Human Trafficking.



Community DeMolay attending the outdoor Conclave at the Masonic Park



MMA - Hillsborough County! Great turnout from the Lodges of District 19. Congratulations to Universal Lodge for having the most members present



Practice Night! Getting ready for the Annual Farmer's Degree. Thanks to the Brothers for their dedication to the Lodge. A little learning and some fun 😊.



Family Night! Last family night of the year and boy did we have fun. Thanks to everyone who came out. Especially those who came in a costume. There was a lot of great food to choose from. We played some fun musical bingo. Everyone was singing along with the music. A special thanks to Rena and Alexis Tabak for doing the bingo. Rina has a killer playlist 🎶🎵 [#SwartselStrong](#)



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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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