FREE & ACCEPTED MASONS · LUTZ, FLORIDA

VOL. CI · NO. 11

Trestleboard

J. F. Swartsel Lodge No. 251

NOVEMBER A.D. 2026 · A.L. 6026



MEETINGS · 1ST & 3RD THURSDAYS · DINNER 6:30 · LODGE OPENS 7:30

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A day at the range

Brotherhood, fellowship and a little friendly competition at Silver Dollar Shooters Club. Page 8.

LODGE LIFE

Two Grand South candidates visit

R.·.W.·. Gary Gamache at our Stated Communication; R.·.W.·. Stephen Clark at the MMA. Pages 6–7.

SAVE THE DATE · NOV 13

Cigar & Bourbon Fundraiser

Benefiting Friends of Joshua House, at Stonewater Grill. Page 9.

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jfswartsel251.org · 813-949-4814

THE LINE

Your 2026 Officers

Worshipful Master	Brother Joe Circhirillo
Senior Warden	Brother Thomas Holland Overman
Junior Warden	Brother Jack Wilbur Jones
Treasurer	R.·.H.·. Jeffrey Thomas Sklet
Secretary	W.·. David Bruce Lambert Sr.
Chaplain	W.·. Wade Edward Angel
Marshal	R.·.H.·. Adam Scott Feldman
Senior Deacon	Brother Denis Graham Monefeldt
Junior Deacon	Brother Kyle John Jesso
Senior Steward	Brother Per-Henrik Johan Nordstrom
Junior Steward	Brother Carlos Andres Perez
Tyler	Brother Jose Luis Valdes Jr.
Musician	Brother John S. Nagy
Historian	W.·. Samuel McPherson

CATECHISM INSTRUCTORS

R.·.H.·. Adam Feldman · W.·. Allan Jenkins · 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

Working on your proficiency? Any of these brothers will sit with you before or after practice.

FROM THE SECRETARY · W.·. DAVID LAMBERT, SR.

Please check your dues card to see if you have paid your 2026 dues. If you have changed your address, call me at (813) 838-7705 or email dlambert7907@gmail.com so I can update your records.

RELIEF

Who does Swartsel Lodge support in the community?

Lutz Fire Department
TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly), Lutz Chapter 56
BSA Pack & Troop 12, Lutz
Lutz Little League Baseball
College scholarships in N.W. Hillsborough County
McKitrick Elementary School
"Helping Paws Program"
Rainbow Assembly (Hillsborough County)
DeMolay (Hillsborough County)
Shriners' Hospital
LifePath Hospice
Job's Daughters
Land O' Lakes High School
Steinbrenner High School
Heart Dance Foundation
Metropolitan Ministries
The Joshua House
Friendship Chapter No. 209, Order of the Eastern Star

The fish fry needs you

Every group on this list is funded by our third-Friday fish fry — and the fish fry runs on volunteers. Two hours in the kitchen, on the line or at the door is all it takes. No experience needed; just show up at 4 PM. Fish fries resume in January.

CALENDAR OF IMPORTANT LODGE DATES

November 2026

Degree practice every Tuesday at 6:30. Stated Communications on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays: dinner 6:30, Lodge opens 7:30.

2 Friendship Chapter No. 209, OES
7:30 PM

3 Degree practice — **cancelled**
Election Day · go vote

4 District 19 School of Instruction
MLT 6–7 PM · School 7–8 PM · John Darling Masonic Center

5 **Stated Communication**
Dinner 6:30 PM · Lodge opens 7:30 PM

10 Degree practice · 6:30 PM

11 Veterans Day
Thank you to our Brothers who served

12 **Entered Apprentice Degree**
Degree team in white jackets

13 **Cigar & Bourbon Fundraiser · 6 PM**
Stonewater Grill · benefiting Friends of Joshua House · $50

16 Friendship Chapter No. 209, OES
7:30 PM

17 Degree practice · 6:30 PM

18 York Rite at J. F. Swartsel · Chapter & Council
Dinner 6 PM · opens 7 PM

19 **Stated Communication**
Dinner 6:30 PM · Lodge opens 7:30 PM

20 Third Friday Fish Fry — **no fish fry in November or December**
Back in January · enjoy the holidays

23 Master Mason Association of Hillsborough County
6:30–8:30 PM · Egypt Shrine

24 Degree practice · 6:30 PM

25 York Rite Commandery of Knights Templar
No meeting due to Thanksgiving

Trestleboard articles & photos due · Br. Henrik Nordstrom · h.nordstrom@icloud.com · 813-370-2828

26 Thanksgiving Day

EA DEGREE · THURSDAY, NOV 12

Henrik Nordstrom in the East. Degree team: white jackets, white shirts, black pants, black long ties. Carlos Perez is practicing the East for a Master Mason Degree in December or January.

SAVE THE DATE · FEB 27, 2027

Tampa S.M.A.R.T. motorcycle course for Shriners and friends — 24 spots. 813-276-3445.

FROM THE EAST · WORSHIPFUL JOE CIRCHIRILLO

A job well done by all

This is your Worshipful Master, Big Joe Chic.

Brothers, I want to thank everyone who participated in our fish fries this past year. Remember, this is how we raise money for our charities. You all do a fantastic job and my appreciation for your hard work and dedication comes straight from the heart. Thank you, Brothers, for a job well done!

I also want to thank all the Brothers who participate on our degree team. Remember, practice makes perfect, and that is why we do such a great job when we put on our degrees.

A special thank you goes out to my Senior Warden for filling in for me, along with all the board members who have kept the Lodge running so smoothly in my absence. Your dedication and leadership are greatly appreciated. A job well done by all!

I want to wish all my Brothers and their families a very Happy Thanksgiving! I hope to be back as soon as my doctors give me the okay. Remember, Brothers, the reason we are so good is because **WE ARE SWARTSEL STRONG!** Looking forward to seeing you all soon.

From the East, your Worshipful Master — Big Joe Chic

FROM THE WEST · BROTHER THOMAS OVERMAN

Family night, a trap shoot, and white jackets on the 12th

Family night was a blast — great food and great fellowship. We want to thank Worshipful David Lambert and his lovely wife for the food preparation, and all those who brought food. We also want to thank Rina Tabak for her contribution and for putting together our entertainment.

Our next degree will be the **EA Degree, scheduled for November 12.** White jackets, white shirts, black pants and black long ties are the dress for the degree team. Henrik Nordstrom will be in the East for the degree. Also noted: Carlos Perez is practicing for the East for the Master Mason Degree, to be delivered in December or January.

The trap shoot was a great success — 15 Brothers showed up and had a great time. Our next social gathering for the brotherhood will be the fishing trip, to be scheduled in the March timeframe.

A reminder: our next scheduled meeting is November 5th, dinner at 6:30, meeting to follow at 7:30.

Fraternally, Brother Thomas Overman



October 6 — the monthly lodge visit delivered King Solomon's Crown to Universal Lodge No. 178.

WAYS TO HELP THIS MONTH

Nov 12 — EA Degree, sideline needed

Nov 13 — Cigar & Bourbon fundraiser

Tuesdays — degree practice

MASONIC EDUCATION

Ne Varietur

"Let it not be changed"

nay vah-ree-eh-toor
Ne — not
Varietur — let it be changed or altered

My Brothers, annually as we move into the 4th quarter of the calendar year a very important document is sent to us… **the Lodge Dues Card.** As we all know, this "paper" represents a badge of commitment allowing us to possess all of the membership rights of our Fraternity, and our ticket to travel among Masonic Lodges across the globe. For me, there is a real feeling of pride and happiness every year when I sign my dues card.

Have you ever wondered what the Latin phrase positioned beneath the signature line denotes?

In Masonic tradition, *Ne Varietur* is associated with a Mason's identifying mark or signature, particularly on a Masonic certificate or other official document. It signifies that the signature or mark is to remain unchanged, helping establish authenticity and identity. In certain jurisdictions a Mason may place his *Ne Varietur* signature on his dues card as a means of identification.

The deeper symbolic meaning

Beyond its literal translation, the phrase can remind a Mason of consistency, integrity, and fidelity to his obligations. Just as the signature is not to be altered, a Mason should remain steadfast in his word, his principles, and his commitments to the Craft. Its documented historical purpose was to authenticate a Mason's identity, but that practical purpose lends itself to several meaningful Masonic lessons.

In Masonic history

The phrase was not merely decorative. Masonic certificates from earlier centuries used *Ne Varietur* beside a handwritten signature as an identity safeguard. A surviving certificate from approximately 1794, preserved by Colonial Williamsburg, illustrates this practice. That distinction is important: the historical meaning is about preserving the signature for identification. The lessons of fidelity, integrity, and constancy are allegorical Masonic interpretations drawn from that practice, rather than universally prescribed meanings.

Let it not be changed

My Brothers, the words *Ne Varietur* remind us that a signature should remain unchanged so that a man's identity can be recognized and trusted. But perhaps there is a deeper lesson for every Mason. Let our signatures remain unchanged, and let our integrity remain equally constant. Let us improve ourselves in wisdom, strengthen ourselves in virtue, and correct our shortcomings without abandoning the principles we have solemnly promised to uphold.

God Bless America and all Freemasons across the Globe! We are JFS #251, Baby. May Brotherly Love & Great Food Prevail.

Fraternally, your Jr. Warden — Bro. Jack Jones

1 · FIDELITY

Remain true to your obligations

The promises we make upon entering the Craft should not change simply because circumstances become difficult.

2 · INTEGRITY

The same man inside and outside the Lodge

Your character should be consistent among your Brothers, at work, at home, or in your community. Your conduct should confirm your word.

3 · RECOGNITION

A Brother must be genuine

The signature helped traveling Masons prove their certificates were their own. The certificate alone does not replace the examination required for admission.

4 · CONSTANCY

Improve without abandoning your principles

Our knowledge, judgment, and behavior should improve; our commitment to honesty and our obligations should remain steadfast.

May the man who enters the Lodge as a Mason be recognized by the same honesty, fidelity, and brotherly love when he leaves it and returns to the world.

WE ARE SWARTSEL STRONG

OCTOBER 1 · STATED COMMUNICATION

Breaking bread, then business

#SWARTSELSTRONG





Another wonderful meal followed by a good meeting. Brothers, you need to come on out to Lodge and join in the festivities. A lot of laughs were had while breaking bread.

And afterward, at The Lutz Connection: the journey continues…

OCTOBER 15 · STATED COMMUNICATION

A candidate for the Grand South







Another great Stated Communication! Brother Junior Warden came through again with a fantastic meal. We had the pleasure of hearing from R.∴W.∴ Gary Gamache. He is running for the Grand South and has some good ideas about the future of the Grand Lodge of Florida.

As always, thanks to all the Brothers who came out to support the Lodge. The fellowship continued the next day at The Lutz Connection.

OCTOBER 6 · UNIVERSAL LODGE NO. 178

Delivering King Solomon's Crown

Our monthly lodge visit took us to Universal Lodge for good food and fellowship. We also delivered King Solomon's Crown. While it was a small group for us, there was a bigger group back at Swartsel getting in some practice for our upcoming EA Degree. We'll see you down the road.







OCTOBER 14 · EGYPT SHRINE

A new Noble's first meeting

Noble Jack Jones' first meeting at Egypt Temple, joined by some other Brothers from J. F. Swartsel. Let's have some fun!



OCTOBER 25 · HERNANDO COUNTY SHRINE CLUB

Oktoberfest with the JGW

Out to support our Junior Grand Warden, and enjoy some Oktoberfest festivities while we're at it. Thank you to all who attended — and a special thanks to those who started their Swartsel Masonic events at 9 AM and still made this one.

OCTOBER 27 · EGYPT SHRINE

Master Mason Association of Hillsborough County

Great meeting at the MMA! We heard from R.∴W.∴ Stephen Clark, candidate for the Grand South. There was a good discussion on different topics. Thanks to all who came out.





OCTOBER 24 · SILVER DOLLAR SHOOTERS CLUB

Brotherhood, fellowship, and a little friendly competition







The Brothers of J. F. Swartsel Lodge No. 251, F.&A.M. enjoyed a fantastic day together at Silver Dollar Shooters Club, followed by a great lunch and fellowship at the clubhouse across the street.

Days like these remind us that Freemasonry extends beyond the Lodge room. Whether we're enjoying some friendly competition on the range, sharing a meal, or simply spending time together, it's these experiences that strengthen our bonds of brotherhood and create lasting memories.

A big thank-you to all the Brothers who came out and made it such a great day! We're proud of the fellowship we share and look forward to many more outings together.

GOT PHOTOS?

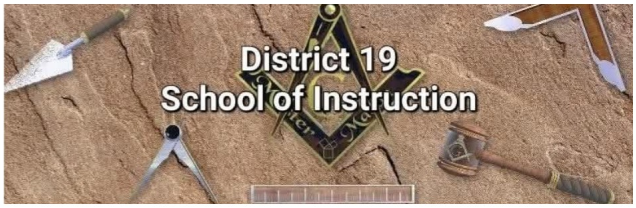
Post to the lodge Facebook page or send to Br. Henrik Nordstrom by the 25th to make the next Trestleboard — h.nordstrom@icloud.com · 813-370-2828.



FRI · NOV 13 · 6 PM · STONEWATER GRILL

Cigar & Bourbon Fundraiser

An evening for a cause, benefiting Friends of Joshua House. $50 per ticket includes one cigar, one bourbon drink and appetizers. Bourbon bottle and gift-basket raffles.



DISTRICT 19 · SCHOOL OF INSTRUCTION

Show up strong and take back the Column

Swartsel's attendance at the District 19 School of Instruction is how we hold the Column. First Wednesday of the month at John Darling Masonic Center — MLT at 6, school at 7.

NOV 11

Veterans Day

To every Brother who served: thank you.

NOV 13 · TICKETS $50

Cigar & Bourbon Fundraiser

Stonewater Grill, 6 PM. Bring a friend — every ticket goes to Friends of Joshua House.

NOV 26

Happy Thanksgiving

From the officers and brethren of Swartsel Lodge to your families.

Trestleboard Advertisers

Please support them — and tell them where you saw them.

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"TO BE ONE, ASK ONE"
J. F. SWARTSEL LODGE NO. 251 F.& A.M.

"Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!"

PSALM 133:1 · OPENED ON THE ALTAR FOR EVERY ENTERED APPRENTICE

J. F. Swartsel Lodge No. 251 F.&A.M.

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