

# THE RAMBLER

THE SWOPE PARK MASONIC TEMPLE BODIES QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Volume 2014 Number 1

January—March 2014

[SWOPEPARK.ORG](http://SWOPEPARK.ORG)

## A Season to Labor

Greetings Brethren and Swope Park Masonic Family Members.

One of the great things about living in the great state of Missouri is the variety of seasons and the ever changing climatic weather we get to experience. I saw a sticker the other day that said "Nothing says spring, like the smell of newly worked soil!" This took me back to my past when I used to assist my Mother with the family garden. It was my duty to till the soil until no clumps remained (of course living in MO, this included removing the numerous rocks in that process), making the soil supple to plant seeds and seedlings.

Swope Park Lodge #617 is already hard at work. We have a long list of candidates coming into our Masonic Lodge that will keep us busy with degree work well into the beginning of the summer season. This is a result of our members seeking out qualified men to become members of our Lodge. Our Secretary, RWB Kenny Best has a spreadsheet to keep track of all of the candidates as well as the many Master Masons that will be conferring different degrees. This will keep candi-

dates from seeing the same people conferring their degrees.

A while back I challenged the members of our Lodge to consider learning new roles to help develop a strong line of people that can help with our busy and hectic degree schedule. Brother Clayton Stiff was the first one to step up to that challenge and learned the First Degree Charge. He even gave the charge the same very night that he told me that he had learned it, and did a great job! WB James Lowman also assisted in conferring the First Degree that same night. Just imagine if each Brother in our Lodge learned one thing new in our ritual, what a huge asset that would be to this Lodge. Other Lodges in the 18<sup>th</sup> Masonic District would benefit greatly from this kind of effort. WM Douglas McDonald, from Country Club Lodge #656 took me up on my challenge and has learned the charges for all three Masonic degrees (and has delivered one or two for our degrees as well). Keep learning and growing in your Masonic endeavors.

Our work is to "extend further!" In addition to

some necessary Lodge work days, we would like to reach out unto the community. Our membership has approved two new service projects, "Books for Bikes" and a "Bicycle Rodeo." RWB Kenneth D. Best will be chairing the "Books for Bikes" program and Brother James O'Shea will be handling the "Bicycle Rodeo." Remember Brethren, our votes to approve these projects also means that we will support them. Contact Kenny or James to see how you can help.

We will also be coming upon the time of year when some of our youth from Job's Daughter's International and DeMolay International will be graduating from high school. On February 20<sup>th</sup>, the Lodge in conjunction with our DeMolay young men hosted a financial workshop for all the local Masonic youth bodies in the KC area, also inviting those without Masonic ties to join. We were assisted by Carly Dibbens, a certified financial planner and representative of the Masonic Home. Attendees were presented with many aspects of what they could expect as they get jobs, apply for college loans and many other financial



Jeffrey L. Engle  
Worshipful Master 2013-2014

subjects. Scholarship applications from the Grand Lodge of the State of Missouri were presented as well as college loan applications for financial assistance for education from the Order of the Eastern Star. The unofficial count was 27 attendees! This was the largest group that the Masonic Home has had to date and was very impressed with the questions and knowledge displayed by our youth. Even some of our leaders have some ideas for future meetings. We hope to continue this next year, looking to have the workshop on a Saturday, so Chapters from outlying areas can better attend. Look for our youth groups to use this as a springboard with open meetings for their respective groups to recruit new members.

One last item for the

*(continued on page 2...)*

## Swope Park #520 OES News

Welcome to Jody Hale and his wife Jamie who received the degrees of Eastern Stars at our March meeting. They are pictured here with Sister Deb Merrick, Worthy Matron and Brother Ed Culver, Worthy Patron.

Brother Harry Williams passed away Dec. 30th and Sister Janet Anschutz died Feb. 16th. We will miss these two members who were devoted to our order.

Congratulations to late Brother Forest McChesney who completed 60 years as a member of Sheffield

Lodge prior to passing on March 23rd.

The District Inspection was held Feb. 15th. Seventeen of our members participated in this official function of the Worthy Grand Matron. March 11th we had the Official Visit of the District Deputy Grand Matron to our chapter. We were pleased at the fine work our officers did. We collected food for the Hope Network Food Pantry in Raytown and gave an extra donation from our Charity Fund.

We look forward to our April 8th Friendship Night when four chap-

ters will be honored. We will have a pot luck dinner at 6:15 p.m. This month we will be collecting supplies for Rainbow Center for Communicative Disorders in Blue Springs.

Looking ahead we will participate in many of the friendship nights of the other seven Chapters in our district. The District Reception is May 3rd in the afternoon. If you are interested in attending please contact the secretary.

Congratulations to Job's Daughter's Bethel #1 for growing and getting out

of Reorg. We are helping them in purchasing new robes for all of the Jobies.

Reminder – a few of you have not yet paid your 2014 dues. Please send it in soon so we do not have to suspend your membership. Also, if you now would like to make a donation to the Grand Chapter charities, it can be done at any time. Be sure to notify the Secretary of any changes in your address or telephone number

Lois Patten, Secretary

816-318-9808



**The newest Swope Park #520 members, Jody and Jamie Hale, stand with Worthy Matron Deb Merrick and Worthy Patron Ed Culver. Jody is also Marshal of Swope Park Lodge #617.**

## A Season to Labor *(continued from cover)*

Brethren is keeping your Masonic information and contact information up to date. One great new way to do this, is to register your contact information through the Grand Lodge Portal on their website [www.momason.org](http://www.momason.org). In the upper right hand corner you will see the words "Membership Portal" (just to the left of the "Secretary's Log-In." If

you have Internet access, just click on the words "Membership Portal" and you can register and manage your contact information. Once you are registered, you will have access to your Masonic records, communication preferences, Masonic Lodges that you have been affiliated with, officer positions that you have held, sub-cards obtained, your

Masonic degree dates and your 50 year pin date. If you need assistance signing up, please feel free to contact myself at (816)716-2521 or our Secretary, RWB Kenny Best at (913)961-7236.

Finally, this year is passing by at an alarming speed. Where has the time gone? Let me take this moment to let you

know that I consider it a privilege to serve as Master for such a great Lodge. Your friendships are precious to me and your efforts in making Swope Park Lodge (and Masonic Family!) are greatly appreciated.

Fraternally yours,

Jeff Engle

Worshipful Master,



## DeMolay / Job's Daughters Swap Meeting



For some time there has been a very animated argument between the young men of William F. Kuhn DeMolay and the young ladies of Bethel #1 Job's Daughters on who had a better understanding of the other's meeting procedure.

On Tuesday, February 25 the question was to be answered.

The DeMolay came dressed as girls and tried to open a Bethel

the way they believed the Bethel operated, they were about 10% right.

Then it was the girls time and, dressed as boys, they proceeded to try and open a DeMolay Chapter, they also were about 10% right.

But the girls did show they have a better understanding of boys.

Unfortunately the boys do not understand girls.



The DeMolay "girls" performing the Closing Cross



The Job's Daughter "boys" kneeling at the altar



## Grand Lodge Acknowledgements

Swope Park Lodge is proud of its members recognized by Grand Lodge for their contributions to the Fraternity.

RWB Kenny Best - District Deputy to

the 18th Masonic District

RWB Gary Dryer - Grand Chaplin of the Grand Lodge of Missouri

WB Charlie Farris - Coordinator for the

MOCHIP Grand Lodge program

They are just a few of the many brothers of Swope Park Lodge who continue to make a difference.

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3917 Prairie Lane  
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## 60 Year Pin Presentation

On February 28, 2014 Swope Park Lodge members presented Brother Max Alexander with his 60 year pin and certificate. Max was honored and proud to receive this distinction from his brethren of Swope Park.

Swope Park Lodge is always proud to see members achieve longevity in their Masonic travels, and Max has certainly been able to accomplish many goals towards achieving light in Freemasonry.



**Top:** Max Alexander surrounded clockwise from left by WM Jeff Engle, RWB Kenny Best, RWB Larry Cameron, and B James O'Shea

**Left:** Max's son Jim Alexander pinning his father with a 60 year pin.



### RWB Dennis Spears, DDGL

District Deputy Grand Lecturer

Eighteenth Masonic District AF&AM of Missouri

Phone: (816) 468-5674

## Swope Park Lodge #617 to Host Bicycle Safety Rodeo

On February 27, 2014 a proposed program entitled "Bicycle Safety Rodeo" for Swope Park Lodge #617 was approved by all the brethren in attendance with SW Jim O'Shea, as chairperson. Due to the short timeframe to plan and schedule the event preliminary contacts were made and the first planning committee meeting was held on March 13, 2014 prior to the special communication for that evening.

The small committee of three, consisting of Chairperson SW Jim O'Shea, RWB Larry Cameron and WB Ed Culver discussed some details of the rodeo to be held at Hickman Mills Junior High School parking lot, Eastern Avenue and Old Santa Fe Road on Saturday, May 10, 2014 from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM. The rodeo will consist of a bicycle inspection station and testing courses to determine bicycle skills of the

individuals between the ages of 5 to 12 years. The committee has made contact with the Executive Director of Operations from the school district and KC Police Department for assistance and several contacts have been made for contributions to assist with materials to support the rodeo. Future planning meetings will be scheduled on Lodge meeting nights at 6:00 PM in Shotwell Hall. Preliminary onsite

setup and practice run through is scheduled for Friday May 9 at 6:00 p.m. In order for this event to be a success numerous Masonic brethren, DeMolay and Jobs Daughters will be needed on May 9 and at 8:00 AM on the day of the event to assist with set-up, registration, bicycle testing, refreshments, and take down. Rain date will be set for May 17.

SW James O'Shea

**The Rambler** is the official quarterly newsletter published for Swope Park Masonic Temple Appendant bodies to communicate the activities of the organizations meeting there. Articles and photos are earnestly solicited. Please place your submission in The Rambler's box in the vestibule outside the lodge room, or email to WB Justin Dryer at [justind@modemolay.org](mailto:justind@modemolay.org). We reach over 400 households.

## Masonic Home Makes Financial Presentation to Youth

Carly Dibben, Financial Counseling Caseworker of the Masonic Home of Missouri made the drive from Columbia to Swope Park Lodge on February 20th to make a financial presentation to the youth of Bethel #1, William F. Kuhn, as well as

other members of the youth groups around the area.

The night was also a culmination of a financial competition to see who could make the most profit from investing fake money which started late last year. Competi-

tors were able to invest in any available stocks, bonds, or other investments each time the groups met.

In the end, William F. Kuhn's Master Councilor Jacob Hampton came out on top, defeating nearly twenty other com-

petitors.

With Carly's help and the experience they learned through investing, these youth are sure to have a leg up when the greater duties of financial responsibility become theirs.



## Ride the Goat

With the resurgence of interest in Freemasonry, lodges are once again busy with the conferral of our degrees. Just recently I overheard a young brother make the statement that he was sponsoring a friend to become a member, that he would "ride the goat". I asked him where he heard that term used. He replied that he had heard other older brethren use it and he thought it was cute to tease the prospective member.....in essence brethren, he was following the lead of older

brethren. I asked him if he knew what "ride the goat" meant, if he knew the origins of this term? His response was no so I elected to inform him of its origins. He looked at me in amazement as I explained it to him and he assured me he would never use it again.

This term is a form of ridicule of our Fraternity. The god Pan has been around since the birth of mythology. Pan was a gentle god of the shepherds. He possessed long ears and

horns and the lower half of his body was that of a goat. Early Christians drew upon this mythology, they modified and changed it. The once gentle Pan became Satan! To the common mind, Satan, or the devil was a he-goat. Thus the devil came into possession of horns, a tail and the cloven hoof.

During the early days of speculative Masonry in England, our Fraternity had many enemies and were mocked and ridiculed at every chance. Some of this

ridicule was a bitter jest; that Freemasons were accustomed to raise the devil in their lodges; and of course the devil was to appear to them "riding on his goat!" Thus the belief was born that Freemasons "rode the goat," indicating that Freemasons were devil worshipers and anti-religious.

Every time a brother uses this term, he helps to perpetuate the ridicule of our Fraternity that began more than two hundred years ago.

RWB Larry Cameron

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### Degree Work Keeping Swope Park Busy

Swope Park Lodge #617 initiated Alexis Guerra Montenegro at a Special Communication on January 15, 2014. RWB Larry Cameron conferred the degree and WB Jeff Engle gave the Lecture and Charge.

On February 27th, 2014 Matthew Leon Vogel joined the fraternity with RWB Kenny Best performing the degree. Alexis also returned on the same evening to receive his Fellowcraft

Degree and was obligated by WB Mel Tacke. WB Jeff Engle gave the Lecture, Letter G and Charge for both degrees.

March 13th brought in another Entered Apprentice with Uriel Payan, the degree was conferred by WB James Lowman, the Lecture was given by WB Jeff Engle, and Charge performed by B Clayton Stiff who did a great job on his first time giving

the Charge.

With these fine gentlemen receiving the remaining light in Freemasonry, and additional petitions voted on during the meetings throughout the last few months, Swope Park will not be without degree work for the foreseeable future.

Swope Park would like to thank the other lodges in the 18th and 19th Masonic District who have supported the

lodge by assisting in the degree work. One very special thank you to the "Godfather of Missouri Freemasons," WB Ben Pagel, who has assisted in each of the degrees conferred this year by Swope Park.



Left: Alexis Guerra Montenegro on the night of his first degree, with WM Jeff Engle and RWB Larry Cameron



Right: Matthew Leon Vogel after receiving his Entered Apprentice degree, with RWB Kenny Best and WM Jeff Engle



Left: Alexis Guerra Montenegro after passing to the degree of Fellowcraft, with WM Jeff Engle and WB Mel Tacke

Above: Swope Park's newest brother Uriel Payan with WM Jeff Engle, WB James Lowman, and B Clayton Stiff

## Brotherly Love

Oklahoma's Grand Chaplin, RWB C.W. "Corky" Grigsby, Jr. contacted WB Jim Lowman and RWB Kenny Best to inform them that one of Swope Park's brethren had tragedy befallen on him.

B James Starky, Corky's cousin, lost everything in a house fire in southern Missouri, including his Masonic apron and Masonic Bible. Corky wanted to help James with replacement items that he lost in the fire. He obtained a replacement Bible from his brethren in Oklahoma, but wanted the apron to come from James' home lodge, Swope Park #617.

Corky travelled from

Oklahoma to visit Swope Park Lodge on a regular Thursday meeting night and was treated to a great First Degree for B Uriel Payan, the first EA degree that Corky has seen using Missouri ritual.

Shortly thereafter, Corky was presented with a Masonic apron by RWB Kenny Best and WM Jeff Engle. RWB Grigsby gave high praise to the brethren for their degree work and was very thankful to receive the apron on James' behalf.

All of the Swope Park family wishes James the very best in regaining a solid footing after losing so much.



RWB C.W. "Corky" Grigsby, Jr. receives his cousin's Masonic apron, a replacement for James Starky's apron that was lost in a house fire.

RWB Corky thanks the lodge for their support and reminisces upon the days that he grew up in Kansas City.



## Bethel #1 Welcomes New Members



Bethel #1 was very pleased to initiate two new members recently.

The picture on the left is from a joint initiation with Bethel #29 on January 14, 2014, where Rylie Jo was welcomed to Bethel #1. Rylie Jo is the sister of Chris, William F. Kuhn's Junior Councilor.

The picture on the right is from the initiation of Mikayla on March 10.

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## THE RAMBLER



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Check out the latest updates to [www.swopepark.org](http://www.swopepark.org) to find history on Swope Park Lodge #617, Swope Park Chapter #520, and soon William F. Kuhn DeMolay and Job's Daughters Bethel #1. Each group includes a calendar that provides their latest activities to stay up to date on current events.

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### SWOPE PARK TEMPLE MEETINGS DATE, TIME and CONTACTS

- **Swope Park Lodge #617 AF&AM**  
Second and Fourth Thursdays 7:30 PM  
Kenny Best, Secretary  
Phone (816) 965-5261
- **Swope Park Order Eastern Star Chapter 520**  
Second Tuesday 7:30 PM  
Lois Patton, Secretary  
Phone (816) 318-9808
- **Harry D. Brown Jr. Chapter 284**  
First Monday 7:30 PM  
Roy Thomas, Secretary  
Phone (816) 318-3939
- **Westport Council Royal & Select Masters Nr 38**  
First Monday 7:30 PM  
Roy Thomas, Secretary  
Phone (816) 318-3939
- **Commandery of Knights Templar Nr 68**  
Third Tuesday 7:30 PM  
Roy Thomas, Secretary  
Phone (816) 318-3939
- **Paul F Miller Memorial Study Club**  
Wednesdays 7:00 PM  
Joshua Thompson, Director
- **Job's Daughters Bethel # 1 and Jobie-2-Bees**  
Second and Fourth Mondays 7:30 PM  
Rita Hanson  
Phone (816) 525-2681
- **William F. Kuhn Chapter DeMolay**  
First and Third Thursdays 7:30 PM  
Gary Dryer, Chapter Advisor  
Phone (816) 763-9494
- **Squires of the Round Table**  
First and Third Thursdays 7:00 PM  
Kevin Sykes, Adult Advisor  
Phone (816) 322-3485