



DAMASCUS LODGE No. 290 F. & A.M.

THE TRESTLEBOARD

Volume XI, Issue XI

November 2014



A SALUTE TO OUR PAST MASTERS

On October 12th the members of Damascus Lodge gathered at St. Francis Brewery to honor our Past Masters. These men have worked hard over the years to serve and lead our Lodge, and they deserve the recognition given them at this annual dinner. Many hours are dedicated to the Lodge by the Worshipful Masters, not only during their term, but as they continue to serve the Lodge for years to come. Very few disappear into the sunset. Their continued dedication and support are most appreciated.

Great food and warm fellowship were the call for the day as we reminisced about years past, and shared hopes for the years to come. These men are dedicated to making our Lodge thrive. Our thanks to all who were able to share in this special occasion.

SPOOKTACULAR!!

How else can you describe a fabulous evening at the Damascus Lodge Halloween Party on October 19th? The families of the Lodge gathered to enjoy hauntingly great food and heaps of fun at what has become an annual favorite of the Lodge. Ghosts, Goblins, Pirates and Fairies feasted on 'ghoul-osh', played games and danced to the haunting tunes of the season.

One of the best parts of this evening is sharing the holiday with all the children. Their joy as they become a Fireman or Princess for the day beams through their smiles as they tire themselves trying to take in all that the holiday brings; candy, games, prizes and fun!

Brothers Bert and Matt outdid themselves again, planning a wonderful family event. Thank you to them, their team and all who joined us for this wonderful night of brotherhood and fun, Damascus style.

ABBY SOMEBODY...

On October 28th the members of the Lodge gathered for a traditional DL290 movie night. It's been a rough year, full of work and special projects. So it was time to relax and simply enjoy a night of brotherhood.

We dined on great homemade pizzas, courtesy of Brother Kevin and enjoyed a Halloween classic, Young Frankenstein. How good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity. Great food and great brotherhood... a Damascus tradition.

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

-  *Ashlar's*
-  *Master's Meesage*
-  *Halloween*
-  *Past Masters Dinner*
-  *Trapped...*

HOW DOES A ROUGH ASHLAR BECOME A PERFECT ASHLAR?

One of my favorite allegories of the craft is the Rough Ashlar and the Perfect Ashlar. The Ashlar is a metaphor for a Mason's journey toward enlightenment and the perfection of his character.

We are taught that the rough Ashlar is made into a perfect Ashlar through a virtuous education, our own endeavors, and the blessings of God. Each Mason's journey is an individual and very personal thing, but each Mason's journey has the same destination, which is the state of perfection.

The Rough Ashlar is a stone that is taken from the quarry while still in its rude and natural state. It was chosen by the workmen to be a candidate for a Perfect Ashlar for use in building a temple. The stone had to meet certain requirements, just as a candidate for the degrees of Freemasonry has to meet certain requirements to be chosen to join the fraternity.

To become a Perfect Ashlar requires serious thought and action. A brother has to look deep inside his self with an open mind to see the vices and superfluities of life, the metaphorical parts of the stone, which do not belong in a Perfect Ashlar. A Mason then uses the common gavel to break off those pieces of stone that do not belong.

The Perfect Ashlar is an ideal stone for use in the building of a temple. The tenets and principles of Freemasonry are the pattern by which this stone has been made ready. The Fraternity teaches the tenets and principles of our order, but the brother is the one that has to learn, assimilate, and weave them into the very fabric of his life to make himself into a Perfect Ashlar. This is a life-long process that includes a virtuous education, self-improvement and personal growth. I have found that as my Masonic education continues, it is getting easier to see the parts of me that do not belong. The hard part is using the common gavel to remove those parts.

The excellent examples set by our fraternal brothers are valuable resources when they impress upon us to take action consistent with our desired personal growth and enlightened thought. It is hard to continue to be a "Rough" Ashlar when you are surrounded by a group of "Perfect" Ashlars! The brothers I have gained since I joined the fraternity induce me to constantly strive to become better than I was before.

In the Fraternity, we say that "we make good men better", not better than other men, but better than themselves. That is a good summation of the journey of a Rough Ashlar into a Perfect Ashlar.

May brotherly love prevail and every moral and social virtue unite and cement each of us "Ashlars" in the fraternity!

Bro. Paul Peacock

LIKE US !

Just a reminder for all you techies on facebook....so are we!! DL290 has our very own facebook page. Check in to find out the latest Lodge news, see what's for dinner, or just see some pics of our latest escapades. Whatever you need to know about Damascus Lodge, you'll find it on our page. Just search for our group page, Damascus Lodge #290 F&AM and request to join. One of our administrators will grant you access, and you're in! Simply knock, and it shall be opened unto you. Just don't break your monitor screen....

Also, if you are not receiving the TrestleBoard via Email and would like to, contact Bro. Secretary, and have him update your lodge contact information, including your new email address! Then you will receive the TrestleBoard via email!!

Giving Thanks



As another winter draws nigh we tend to look back to the months past. The trees rejoice in a burst of colorful celebration that another year has passed. Falling leaves remind us that the cleansing snows of winter will soon fall and another year will have drawn to a close. At this time I can't help but reflect and wonder.

This past year has been an interesting mix for our Lodge. We've initiated some new programs and tried to get back to some of the basics that have made us strong. We've accomplished much, but have been hindered by ghosts of the past. We've met both achievement and adversity.

While some of the occasions of the year have tried us, those times have made us stronger. When tough decisions had to be made, we came together and did what we felt was right. It has been said that difficult times build character, just as the fires of the furnace strengthen the steel.

We have celebrated much success this year. We have identified many future leaders for the Lodge and worked hard to give them the tools they need to lead us into the future. We've had some great events to bring our families together and enjoy each other as our Damascus family continues to grow. We've reached out to our community and helped, just as we've reached out to aide members of our Damascus family.

So at this time of the year, when we give thanks for All our blessings, we should be thankful for those trying times as well as the good. It is the trying times that test our strength and give us cause for all the celebrations we enjoy. Our Lodge continues to grow and we have leaders who will grow with it. We have dedicated men who will do what is right to see our Lodge continues to be strong and thrives.

As the Thanksgiving Holiday draws near and I reflect on all God has given me, you, the members of Damascus Lodge, my 'family' by choice, not blood, are among my most cherished blessings. You inspire me and give me hope for our Lodge and our fraternity. May God bless you and your families.

Elections are November 11th. Sign up for our Christmas Party, December 14th! You won't want to miss it. Don't forget Toys-for-Tots at our December 9th Stated Meeting.

Happy Thanksgiving! Have a blessed Holiday.

See you in Lodge!

Mick Olson,
Worshipful Master

DAMASCUS LODGE 290

MEMBER CHRISTMAS GATHERING

DATE: **SUNDAY** **DECEMBER** **14TH**

TIME: **4PM**

COST IS \$5/PERSON
OR \$10/FAMILY

PLACE: **LAKE** **LODGE**



CHRISTMAS DINNER

Gifts/Cookie Decorating for Children
12 & under,
Yankee Swap for Adults
and kids 13 and up.

Each person wishing to participate in the
Yankee Swap, please bring 1 wrapped,
non gender specific gift worth \$5 or less.

**RSVP to Brother Bert at
(414)486-0806 or bsbert290@att.net
by December 7th, 2014**



TRAPPED

A combined Lodge team from Damascus and West Allis Lodges formed a Trap Shooting Team called the Stone Cutters. The team did it for fun and fellowship. The team consisted of Tom Stachowiak, Tom Lang, Brian Bertram, Bob Bertram, Leland Schams, and Nathan Butts. We also had a replacement shooter for Bob who was unable to complete the season, Paul Graeven.

The team was placed in the E division and had a successful year, leading the division for a while, fluctuating between first and third, and ending the year in second place. Each team member received a trophy and the team received a 2nd place plaque.

The team had spectators several times during the season and everyone learned a lot and had a great time. Team badges were made for the team by Heather Williams, wife of Damascus member Jason Williams. Anyone interested in participating in trap shooting next year please see Nathan or Brian and we can plan on doing it again.

Bro. Nathan Butts



SPOOKTACULAR PICTURES





DAMASCUS LODGE No. 290 F. & A.M.

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WE ARE ON THE WEB AT
[HTTP://WWW.DL290.ORG](http://www.dl290.org)

THE REAL SECRET OF FREEMASONRY

MAKING GOOD MEN BETTER

LODGE TRUSTEES

Patrick J. Militzer, P.M. (2014) 414-469-9804
Matthew Wright, P.M. (2015) 414-254-5677
Nathan Butts (2016) 414-727-9772

SICK AND VISITATION CHAIRPERSON

Curt Campagna 414-698-8874

MASTER'S BOARD

Keep those petitions coming in. The Master's Board Chairman and Master's Board Secretary would like to remind you to keep an eye out for new candidates for the Lodge.

Remember to carry a petition with you in your travels because you never know who you will meet.

If you do not have a petition or you need more, please contact any lodge officer and they will make sure you receive a couple.

2014 LODGE OFFICERS

Worshipful Master
Charles 'Mick' Olson, P.M. worshipful.master@dl290.org

Senior Warden
Curt Campagna, P.M. senior.warden@dl290.org

Junior Warden
Nathan Butts junior.warden@dl290.org

Treasurer
Dale A. Graeven, P.M. treasurer@dl290.org

Secretary
Michael B. Meyer, P.M. secretary@dl290.org

Chaplain Matthew Hanchek
Junior Deacon Scott M. Fairbanks
Junior Steward Don O'Kray
Senior Deacon Paul E. Peacock
Senior Steward Brian Bertram
Tiler Louis Montgomery, P.M.