



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

THE TRESTLEBOARD

Volume VI, Issue 1

January, 2009



LODGE INSTALLATION

Please join the incoming officers of Damascus Lodge on January, 11 2009 at 3:00pm. Installation will be followed by a dinner at the Lake Lodge Masonic Center.

The Officers to be installed are:
Worshipful Master: Mick Olson, PM
Senior Warden: Larry Chadderdon
Junior Warden: Lloyd Wilson
Secretary: Michael Meyer, PM
Treasurer: Lou Montgomery, PM
Chaplain: Donald O’Kray

Senior Deacon: Michael Fairbanks
Junior Deacon: Sean Schult
Senior Steward: Jon Syverson
Junior Steward: Dennis McNulty
Tiler: Dale R. Graeven, P.M.
Counselor: Curt A. Campagna, P.M.
Trustee: Patrick Miltzer, PM

SEMPER FI !!

At our December 9th Stated Meeting the members of Damascus brought toys and cash to donate to our favorite elves, the United States Marine Corps. We honor these men and women who not only protect our freedom, but volunteer to help Santa make sure everyone has a wondrous Christmas morning.

When I told them the toys were from Damascus Masonic Lodge, a couple of the young men asked “What are the Masons?” They didn’t have long, but I gave them the abbreviated version and dropped a couple of names, George Washington and Ben Franklin. I then invited them to visit any time.

It was a pleasure to deliver two large bags of toys and a \$125.00 check to these fine men. I found them in the garage, in the cold, sorting through the donations already received. And they thanked US?



What fine young men! I was proud of my Lodge and my Country! Thank you, Brethren!

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

-  *Lodge Installation*
-  *Semper FI!!*
-  *Echo’s from the West*
-  *Master’s Message*
-  *Upcoming Events*
-  *Meet the Senior Deacon*
-  *Sweetheart’s Brunch*

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ECHO'S FROM THE WEST



Brethren,

I greet you in this New Year as your new Senior Warden, with a hearty wish for a healthy and prosperous New Year to one and all. I hope that I can live up to the belief you have in me. I will do my best.

During this year I will use this column to try and enlighten and entertain you with several types of information about Masonry. I will be giving you definitions of Masonic words and phrases, along with some historical "tid-bits" I find along the way. Until next month.

Yours Fraternally,
Larry Chadderton
Senior Warden

JANUARY 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- 1/11 - Lodge Installation - 3pm, Degree Practice after light dinner.
- 1/13 - Stated Meeting - 6pm Dinner, Master's Board 6:45pm Lodge 7:15pm, Entered Apprentice Degree at 7:45pm.
- 1/27 - Master Mason Degree, Dinner at 6pm, Degree at 7pm.
- 2/15/09 - Sweetheart's Brunch - 10am - Packing House Restaurant
- 3/22/09 - Lodge Luau, Family Event - See Page 10 - 3:00pm

MASONIC ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations on the Anniversary of your having been raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason. Your love for our Fraternity is made apparent by the cheerful continuation of your long-standing association with it.

Visit Lodge when degrees are being conferred — you just may be reminded of the way you felt when you were initiated, passed, and raised.

Paul W. Schmidt - 1/4/1952 - 56 years

Brian J. Alsobrook - 1/22/2005 - 3 years

William J. Metzen - 1/15/1968 - 40 years

David J. Hartl - 1/22/2008 - 1 year

“The Form of the Lodge is oblong. In length from east to west, in breadth between north and south, as high as heaven and as deep as from the surface to the centre. A Lodge is said to be thus extensive to denote the universality of Freemasonry, and teaches that a Mason’s Charity should be equally extensive” -- Masonic Lecture, in Standard Masonic Monitor - 1899

HAPPY BIRTHDAYS

We wish you a very Happy Birthday and many more to come. In our hearts we raise a glass and make a toast, “To your continued long life!”

Louis W. Montgomery, P.M. - 1/10

James E. Schneider - 1/26

John A. Kosidowski - 1/17

Tom O’Reilly - 1/27

Col. Robert Acton - 1/24



“Observe good faith and justice towards all Nations; cultivate peace and harmony with all. Religion and Morality enjoin this conduct; and can it be, that good policy does not equally enjoin it? It will be worthy of a free, enlightened, and, at no distant period, a great Nation, to give to mankind the magnanimous and too novel example of a people always guided by an exalted justice and benevolence”

George Washington
President of the United States - Farewell Address

“It is most reverently to be wished, that the conduct of every member of the fraternity, as well as those publications that discover the principles which actuate them, may tend to convince mankind that the grand object of Masonry is to promote the happiness of the human race.”

George Washington

THE MASTER'S MESSAGE

You again?



Worshipful Master
Mick Olson



Greetings Brethren,

Yep! I'm back. I guess I didn't do so well last year so the Brethren decided I should get a Mulligan and do it all over. So...I'll try to do better this year. Thank you for the opportunity.

I'm really excited about this year! We've got some new officers in the line who will bring a fresh outlook to the Lodge. Last year was very successful, and this year should be even better! We've got some new events on the schedule and we've got some of the traditional outings that have become Damascus favorites. I hope you will all look at your calendars and set aside some dates to come out and join all your Brethren at Damascus as we continue to work and have fun together.

Installation will be at 3:00 pm, January 11, 2008 at the Lake Masonic Center. Please come and support your new officer corps. It may be cold outside, but I promise you'll receive the usual warm Damascus welcome! And food!

We hit the ground running as we initiate Mr. Dave Hendrick on January 13th. Just two weeks later, January 27th we'll be Raising Bro. Jeff Giese. Our new officers will be working hard, right out of the gates. And that's just the start as we have petitions in hand!

I hope you all had a blessed, wondrous Christmas. I wish you a safe and Happy New Year! This is the time for family, and I pray you were able to join together to celebrate the birth of Jesus and thank God for him and our manifold blessings. As we reflect on the past year and chart our course for the next, remember those people who are most important to you. Spend time with them and tell them you love them. Let them know they are the greatest of Gods gifts.

And don't forget your Brethren. We hope to see you often this year. Come and get your fill of brotherly love and affection. Come and get your fill of Damascus food! Motel 6 may leave a light on for you, but we'll keep your plate warm for you!

Merry Christmas! Happy New Year!!

See you in Lodge!

Mick Olson
Worshipful Master

2009 LODGE OFFICERS

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"Masonic labor is purely a labor of love.

He who seeks to draw masonic wages in gold and silver will be disappointed.

The wages of a mason are earned and paid in their dealings with one another; sympathy that begets sympathy, kindness begets kindness, helpfulness begets helpfulness, and these are the wages of a mason. "

Benjamin Franklin
(1706-1790)

MEET THE SENIOR DEACON

Words do not exist that can express my appreciation for the opportunity to be your Senior Deacon for the Year 2009. To be appointed Senior Deacon is an honor and a privilege, and I will put forth my best effort to serve you my Brethren, Worshipful Master Mick, and the Lodge over all.

Seventeen months ago, I found myself in Belfast, Northern Ireland on my annual visit with family and friends. If at that time I had been told that I would be a Master Mason and would be looking forward to being seated in the Senior Deacon's chair in less than two years, I would have looked at them and asked "What is a Master Mason? Am I really on Candid Camera? Do I have to give up my day job? I have my own chair, thank you very much".

My cousin Frank Craig, he himself a Master Mason and an officer in the Grand Priory in Northern Ireland, asked if I would be interested in seeing the "Lodge". Not having a clue what a Mason was or what one did other than build things with stone, brick, and mortar; I said "sure, let's go". And off we went. Little did I know at the time this would be the start of my Masonic journey.

Not a word passed between my cousin and me as we walked around the Lodge and I admired the certificates, wall hangings, and photographs of members of the Royal Family and other very highly regarded Masons. I didn't know it then, but looking back I now believe Frank was lying in wait for me to ask the one, inevitable question. "What is a Mason and what do they do?".

His smile slowly grew into a big grin as he began to explain how it's not really about what a Mason does, but more about how a Mason strives to become a better man, to learn to better navigate through life as a better man using the tools of Freemasonry, to meet and fellowship with like minded men, and to eat all you can eat at the dinner after the Stated Meetings. It was on that day I learned that my family has been involved in Masonry for more than 200 years.

I do not remember how long we spent walking around the lodge and talking, but that day I received quite the Irish Masonic history lesson starting with the Battle of the Boyne in 1690. My interest now duly and sufficiently piqued I was determined to learn more about the world wide fraternity called Freemasonry and I started by contacting Damascus Lodge #290.

On my first visit to #290 we watched "Wild Hogs" and cut up something fierce while learning that 290 was not just a Lodge number but a goal, and I remember thinking "Hey, there just might be something to this Mason thing".

My brethren, the past 17 months have been a pure joy and pleasure serving with each and every one of you and as I have been appointed your Senior Deacon for 2009, I am enthusiastically looking forward to being at the Right Hand of our Worshipful Master and serving the Lodge in that capacity as well as any capacity I may fill.

And now the exciting stuff. My wife Sandy and I live in Oak Creek and have five children between us. We blended two families when my youngest son was just four months old. We have been married 19 years come July 12, 2009.

Our oldest, Jason, completed his service to our country as a United States Marine in 2005 and lives in Virginia with his wife and five children. Our daughter Stacy also lives in Virginia and works as a Corporate Trainer for Bank America. Our daughter Mariah currently lives in Oshkosh and graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh this past May with her B.A. in Anthropology and is looking for a job. I personally believe she is dragging her feet and just taking time off before she actually goes to work. Our son Scott will graduate in May 2009 with a double B.S. degree in Math and Aeronautical Engineering.

Last but not least is our son Shane who works hard during the day then comes home at night and cares for his two year old daughter and does all of our vehicle mechanical and maintenance work. Sandy and I are very proud of all of our children and it is because of Sandy's hard work and family dedication that our children have grown and are successful today.

I'll leave you with this thought: There is definitely something, a whole lot of something to this Masonry thing.

Michael Fairbanks, Senior Deacon



You're Invited!!

*Damascus Lodge's Annual
Sweetheart's Brunch*

*Sunday, February 15, 2008
10:00 A.M.*

*Packing House Restaurant
900 East Layton Avenue
Milwaukee, Wisconsin*



*Ladies of the Lodge will be our guests. The cost
for all others is \$25.00.*



R.S.V.P. Mick before February 7th.

NOT YOUR AVERAGE DING-A-LINGS!!

On December 13th members of Damascus Lodge picked up the little red bells and rang their hearts out for the Salvation Army. There were at least two members ringing at all times during the day and in spite of the chilly weather we were greeted with a lot of warm holiday wishes.

It is great to see the Brethren turning out to support this very worthwhile cause. It's a very busy time of year and the Lodge extends our thanks to all who gave their time to help, Eric, Jon (and wife Linda), Mike, Lloyd, Mike and Mick. A special thanks to Alice who always comes out to help, and to our not yet newest Brother, Ben. It was wonderful seeing you all there! Thank you for your support.



"In any moment of decision the best thing you can do is the right thing, the next best thing is the wrong thing, and the worst thing you can do is nothing."

*--Theodore Roosevelt,
26th president of the U.S.*

YE OLDE CHRISTMAS FEAST PHOTOS



AND THESE TWO SANG FOR THEIR DINNER...



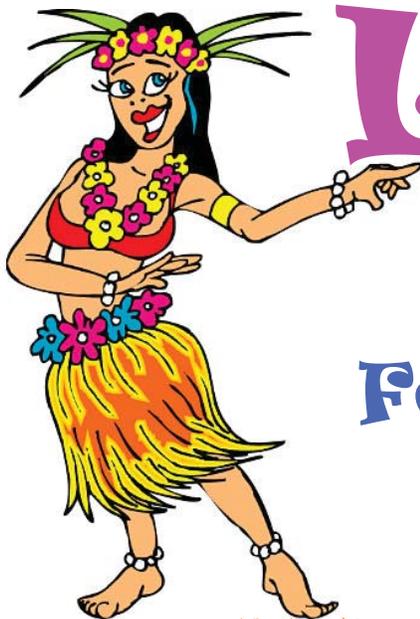


MELT THOSE WINTER BLUES !!

And Catch a wave !!



TO THE DAMASCUS LODGE



LULAU



**Sunday
February 22
3 o'clock**

**DIG OUT YOUR GRASS
SKIRT AND SUNSCREEN!**

Adults \$5.00 Kids are FREE

RSVP Mick by Feb.1st



**PLEASE WEAR LUAU ATTIRE
AND BEWARE OF PIRATES !!**



2009 Event Schedule

Tentative Dates	Event
Jan 11	Installation
Jan 18	Officers planning session (1:00 pm)
Feb 13	Bethel #6 Honor Masons Night
Feb 15	Sweethearts Brunch** (10:00 am)
Feb 22	Luau (3:00 pm) (F&F)
Apr 19	Master's Board Dinner (TBA)
May 1	Milwaukee Iron Arena Football Game (F)
Jun 5&6	Grand Lodge
Jun 21	Slinger Speedway
Jul 12	Mini Golf - Damascus Lodge Open (F&F)
Aug 9	Renaissance Faire (TBA) (F)
Sep 22	Damascus Lodge 290 Slot Car Race
Oct 18	Past Master's Dinner**(TBA)
Nov ?	Bethel #6 Honor Masons Night
Dec 6	Ye Olde Christmas Feast 5:00 pm (F)
Dec 8	Lodge Christmas Party – Toys for Tots
TBA	Jobie Baseball Game (Take ice cream)

*(F) denotes family event

** Spouses/Partners Invited

***(F&F) family and friends invited



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

Lloyd A. Wilson (2009)	414-315-0136
Dale A. Graeven, P.M. (2009)	414-764-8187
Patrick J. Militzer, P.M. (2010)	414-469-9804

SICK AND VISITATION CHAIRPERSON

Larry Chadderdon	414-421-9624
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MASTER'S BOARD

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

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

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

MORE CHRISTMAS FEAST PHOTOS

