



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

THE TRESTLEBOARD



Volume VI, Issue 2

February, 2009

A NEW MASTER MASON
WELCOME, BROTHER JEFF



LODGE INSTALLATION

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

-  *New Master Mason*
-  *Lodge Installation*
-  *Echo's from the West*
-  *Master's Message*
-  *Upcoming Events*
-  *Meridian Message*
-  *Sweetheart's Brunch*
-  *Milwaukee Iron*



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2009 OFFICERS OF DAMASCUS

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ECHO'S FROM THE WEST

Brethren,

This month I will be discussing the Masonic definition of one of the cardinal compass points, along with one of the common terms we use regularly in Lodge. The definitions I am using are taken from "Lexicon of Free Masonry" by Albert G. Mackey, 33rd degree. Brother Mackey was, when this book was written, Grand Secretary and Grand Lecturer of the Grand Lodge of South Carolina; Secretary General of the Supreme Council, Thirty-third Degree, for the Southern Jurisdiction of the United States and G.: H.: P.: of the Grand Chapter of South Carolina. This book was originally printed in 1908, so the verbiage might come across as out of date. But, the information is still relevant.

East: The East has always been considered peculiarly sacred. This was, without exception, the case in all the ancient mysteries. In Egyptian rites especially, and those of Adonis, which were among the earliest and from which the others derived their existence, the Sun was the object of adoration, and his revolutions through the various seasons were fictitiously represented. Therefore, the spot where this luminary made his appearance at the commencement of the day and where his worshippers were wont, anxiously to look for the first darting of his prolific rays, was esteemed as the figurative birthplace of their god and was honored with an appropriate degree of reverence. Even among those nations where Sun-worship gave place to more enlightened doctrines, the respect for the place of Sunrise continued to exist. Our Jewish brethren retained it and handed it down to their Christian successors. The camp of Judah was placed by Moses in the East, as a mark of distinction. The tabernacle in the wilderness was situated due East and West and this practice was continued in the erection of Christian churches. Hence, the primitive Christians always turned towards the East in their public prayers, which custom St. Augustine accounts for, "because the East is the most honorable part of the world, being the region of light whence the glorious sun arises." Hence all Masonic lodges, like their great prototype, the Temple of Jerusalem are situated, or ought to be situated due East and West. As the North is esteemed a place of darkness, the East, on the contrary, is considered a place of light.

Due Guard: We are by this ceremony strongly reminded of the time and manner of taking our solemn vows of duty, and hence are duly guarded against any violation of our sacred promises as initiated members of a great moral and social institution.

That's all for this month. Next month we'll look at another compass point and one or two more common terms. So stay tuned.

Yours Fraternaly,
Larry Chadderdon
Senior Warden

NOTICE OF STATED MEETING CHANGE

Brethren, you are hereby notified that the March 2009 Stated Meeting of Damascus Lodge No. 290 has been changed from March 10th to March 24th at 7:00 pm. This has been done to accommodate our annual School of Instruction, which will be held on March 10th at 7:00 pm.

You are all invited to attend the School of Instruction. We will be working in the Fellowcraft Degree and I can guarantee you will learn something new if you attend. Some of us can barely remember our FC Degree. Now is a time to come and dust off those working tools and renew the lessons taught in this beautiful degree.

Both of our March meetings will be preceded by a 6:00 pm dinner. After all, it's the Damascus way!

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.

Joseph Dalkner - 2/21/1945 - 64 years

Pat Militzer, P.M. 2/15/2003 - 6 years

John Lukich - 2/12/1964 - 45 years

Michael Fairbanks, 2/26/2008 - 1 year

Eckhard Tetzlaff - 2/9/1973 - 36 years

Sean Schult - 2/29/2008 - 1 year

Robert Yunker - 2/24/1981 - 28 years

“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!”

George Ladwig - 2/4

Gerald Jordan, P.M. - 2/24

Joseph Dalkner - 2/17



“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

Opportunity



Worshipful Master
Mick Olson



Brethren,

The New Year has brought us new opportunities. We have a new Entered Apprentice in Brother Dave Hendrick and our newest Master Mason, Brother Jeff Giese was raised on January 27th. Congratulations to you both! And we have more to come!

Congratulations to our new line of officers who conferred two fantastic degrees. Outstanding when you consider this was done within three (almost two) weeks of installation. Many thanks to our elder statesmen for their coaching and efforts in making the degrees successful.

I believe that this mixture of old and new, tradition and newness is one of the contributing factors to our success. Damascus Lodge is reinventing itself. Or maybe it's more of an evolution. Taking some of the old along with the new.

As with all Lodges, each new year brings a new line of Officers. This year we welcome several new faces to our corps of officers. These men are eager to learn more about our craft and continue to build Damascus Lodge according to the designs laid out by our past Masters on the lodge trestleboard.

But the designs upon that trestleboard are not etched in stone. Those designs are intended to be adjusted and perfected. Each new officer brings new ideas and talents to the leadership of the Lodge. Merging old and new.

And just as each year brings new officers, it also brings new challenges. But challenge means opportunity. Opportunities to adjust those designs and strengthen our lodge, our officers and our members.

But Damascus has never been about our officers. It is the diversity and depth of knowledge of our members that is our true strength. Each member has wisdom and experience to share with our new officers. Tools to help shape and mold each new officer as he makes his journey to the East. No man is prepared to be Master of the lodge without the aid and assistance of the Brethren.

So I ask all of you Brethren, come to Lodge and support your Officers. Endue them with your wisdom and help them become strong leaders for our future. The future of Damascus Lodge is not only in their hands, but yours as well.

As you saw in last month's Trestleboard, we have many events scheduled for the enjoyment of the Brethren and their families. Opportunities to come out and have some fun with us this year. Come to a meeting and enjoy some food and fellowship. We'll keep a plate warm for you.

See you in Lodge!

Mick Olson
Worshipful Master

2009 LODGE OFFICERS

Worshipful Master

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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)

AT THE RIGHT HAND

“Brother Senior Deacon –Your duty?”

Such a short and simple question with a relatively short and easily memorized answer, but is the answer really short or easy? Let’s extend the question to the Junior Deacon. “Brother Junior Deacon –Your duty?” Again, such a simple question with a relatively short and easily memorized answer. Is this answer any shorter or easier than that of the Senior Deacon? Just ask anyone who has held any Lodge chair for the first time, give them a few minutes to think about it and very likely they will begin their answer with the standard “To work in close relationship with the Worshipful Master and the officers of the Lodge to carry the orders and messages about the Lodge room.” And then likely they will expand their answer with what will be thoughtful, insightful, and educational remarks, hopefully ended with a bit of Masonic history.

The Deacons are often the first contact for prospective candidates on their first foray through our doors into the world of Freemasonry. The Deacons should strive to make the prospective candidate feel welcome and comfortable. As greeters of visiting Brethren of other Lodges, we should conduct, introduce, and make our visitors as welcome and comfortable as is humanly possible.

In short, the Deacons are responsible for making sure any prospective candidates, visitors, and visiting Brethren are well cared for while in our Lodge and to ensure our visitors do not feel left out of our activities or fellowship.

The Junior Deacon has the further responsibility of obtaining the names of degree candidates and communicating those names to the Worshipful Master, the Conferring Master and the Senior Deacon for each degree.

The Junior Deacon is charged with ensuring each candidate is prepared for his degree and that each candidate is calm and knows that he will not be subjected to anything that we all have not done before. Brother Junior Deacon must also memorize and deliver his role for each degree and to do so to the best of his ability.

It is incumbent upon the Senior Deacon with the aid of the Junior Deacon; to set up the Master’s Lodge, to make sure that any new or prospective candidates are met and conducted around our dining area and Lodge, then to introduce them to our Brethren.

As with the Junior Deacon, he also is a vital part of the degree work from the Entered Apprentice, through the Fellow Craft, and into the Master Mason degrees. As with all officers, the Senior Deacon should be well versed, rehearsed, and prepared to aid the Worshipful Master, the Conferring Master, and all participants so as to deliver the best possible degree for each candidate on what is one of his most important endeavors.

When I asked to have a small part in the degrees, warp factor 10 would have had trouble keeping pace with the speed at which a cipher was produced and the part of King Hiram entrusted to me. Later I would be entrusted with the role of Junior and then Senior Deacon.

The roles of the Junior and Senior Deacons are not given lightly and emphasis must be made to ensure that we as Deacons understand the responsibility of our roles, the impact we have on the degree recipients, and that every degree should be performed to the best of our ability.

When my degrees were conferred, I deeply appreciated the fact that everyone was prepared, knew their lines, and gave me the best three degrees any candidate could hope to have. And while it is officially the duty of the Deacons to welcome brethren and candidates, I found that all the Brethren were well versed in this duty and made me feel as if Damascus was truly my home.

Michael Fairbanks, Senior Deacon

FEBRUARY 2009

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

| 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 |

- 2/1 - EA Degree - 5pm Practice, 6pm - Dinner, 7pm - EA Degree.
- 2/10 - Stated Meeting - 6pm Dinner, Lodge 7pm
- 2/15/09 - Sweetheart's Brunch - 10am - Packing House Restaurant
- 2/24/09 - Practise for School of Instruction, 6pm Dinner - 7pm Practice (1st Section FC, 2nd Section MM)
- 3/22/09 - Lodge Luau, Family Event - See Page 10 - 3:00pm
- 5/1/09 - Milwaukee Iron Football Event - See Page 11

2009 Upcoming Event Schedule

| Tentative Dates | Event |
|-----------------|--|
| Feb 13 | Bethel #6 Honor Masons Night |
| Feb 15 | Sweethearts Brunch** (10:00 am) |
| Mar 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) |
| TBA | Jobie Baseball Game (Take ice cream) |

*(F) denotes family event

** Spouses/Partners Invited

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

ALOHA!

Join us on March 22nd (New date!!) for an afternoon of fun in the sun at the Damascus Lodge Luau! You will be whisked away to the enchanted island of Damascus where you will enjoy the native hospitality and eat your fill of the island delicacies. Drink tropical punch and be entertained by native song and dance.

This is a day for the whole family. Bring your prospective members and their families. Just \$5.00 per person includes ocean and air transportation, food, beverage, entertainment, all transfer fees, taxes and gratuities. Call "Mick's Travel and Snow Plowing Service" at 764-7953 to make your reservation before March 1st.

Be warned!! There is a very strict dress code! Those not clothed in proper island attire are subject to ridicule and laughter by their brethren.

Enjoy games for all ages, a costume contest, tropical photo opportunities and more. Book it Dan-O!

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

This last year has been quite challenging, what with being on the road so much. I wonder how I found time to complete anything extra, much less find time to be ordained as a minister and get started helping people prepare for and officiate their weddings. Our daughter has left home and is starting her career in the Navy. Oh how our lives move in ways we never would have expected. As the New Year starts, I humbly look forward to being the Chaplain of Damascus #290.

My intention is to be available to all members of the Damascus family, with compassion and caring assistance. We are put in positions to be challenged, and these become the opportunities to grow and develop into even something stronger, better and more useful in His grand plan.

With the help of the Great Architect of the Universe, we will grow this next year in the direction he has chosen. My hope is that we allow his power to work in us and understand his work is the path we should follow. Blessings of the Season to all Brothers of Damascus and their families, our Widows of past Brothers and all those who help us become who we are

Rev. Don O'Kray
Damascus 290 Chaplain

"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.*

MERIDIAN MESSAGE

Every year at this time I am struck by how much time we devote to looking back and looking ahead and I'm reminded of Janus, that old Greek god who did just that, the guardian of thresholds and the one that January was named after. Janus was guardian of all portals (doors and windows) and looked backwards and forwards (a modern film company uses his image as their logo), but as the guardian of thresholds he could also be said to look out and within, and this could also represent reflection. He wasn't a major deity for the Greeks but they all recognized him and honored him, which was not true of some of their major deities. So it would seem that those old time Greeks thought that thresholds and reflection were important.

Janus wasn't the only threshold guardian of the Greeks. They also had the twin goddesses of dusk and dawn, Iris, goddess of the dawn and Hermes. Hermes was the god of messengers, which is why his likeness is used by FTD. Hermes was a Greek psychopomp, a Greek word for someone who helps the recently dead find their way from the land of the living to the land of the dead. That's a pretty big threshold to cross.

Hermes is from a special mythic archetype known as a trickster. Tricksters are shady characters. Some, like Hermes, work for the good guys, some for the bad guys, and some are only looking out for themselves so as a class they can be said to balance on the threshold between good and evil. Hermes is usually depicted as a male on the verge of manhood, a beardless youth, which puts him symbolically at a major threshold in a person's life.

Greek heroes often find themselves in threshold states, often on the verge of their greatness but usually resulting in their downfall or even death. There is another story that comes to mind and it holds some scenes of special interest. The story is from Celtic myth and concerns Ireland's national hero Cuchulain (Coo Cullen is a common pronunciation). Ancient Celts conducted cattle raids as a sort of regional warfare and our story concerns a raid of Ulster by Connaught. Due to another tale, that I won't go into at this time, the men of Ulster are under a strange curse and unable to fight.

Our hero, Cu, is the best warrior in Ulster with a famous battle rage that makes other men seem weak in comparison. Cu is married and has a son, but hasn't yet passed his manhood tests. Being on the threshold of full warrior status he is immune to the curse and sets out on his own to stop the Connaught cattle raid. Cu's plan is to offer individual challenges to the Connaught heroes and slow the invasion until the men of Ulster recover. Cu makes a serious nuisance of himself, killing a number of the invaders and establishing a 'one man roadblock' at a ford. Waterfords are special places as they are in the water but are a part of the land, which makes them threshold points. Cu offers a challenge to the Connaught army and requests a battle of champions. The men of Connaught are unable to refuse such an honorable challenge and the invasion stops until someone can defeat him. Cu faces warrior after warrior and defeats them all, saving Ulster.

Throughout legend and lore we find heroes at a threshold or decision point. These heroes are given an opportunity or choice, often with far-reaching consequences. As Masons, we have been equipped with many 'working tools', tools that have prepared us for the times we find ourselves at a threshold. Tools that will help us to make the correct choice when given any challenge or opportunity to better ourselves or serve our fellow man.

Lloyd Wilson
Junior Warden



MELT THOSE WINTER BLUES !!

And Catch a wave !!



TO THE DAMASCUS LODGE



LUAU



**Sunday
March 22
3 o'clock**

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

Adults \$5.00 Kids are FREE

RSVP Mick by Mar. 1st



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





**Join Damascus Lodge No. 290
as we cheer the
“MILWAUKEE IRON”
to VICTORY!!**



**FRIDAY, MAY 1, 2009
7:05 P.M.
AT THE BRADLEY CENTER!**



**TICKETS ARE JUST \$13.00 FOR MEMBERS
AND IMMEDIATE FAMILY. GUESTS ARE \$28.50
PARKING IS ON YOUR OWN.**



Don't be left at the gate !!

GET A FREE 'IRON' T-SHIRT!!!

**RESERVATIONS TO MICK
BY MARCH 24TH!!**



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 |
|------------------|--------------|

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.

“DALE, I CAN NOT EAT ANY MORE FOOD!”

