



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

# THE TRESTLEBOARD

Volume VIII, Issue 2

February 2011



## DEGREES

Congratulations to Brothers Paul Peacock and Jason Williams for their successful FC Examinations at our January meeting. And they were passed just two weeks prior to that! Great work, Brothers!

That means our Damascus Degree Team will be conferring two MM Degrees in February. We'll start on Saturday, Feb. 19th at 5:00 pm with Bro. Jason. There will be a light dinner served between the first and second sections. We'll follow up with Bro. Paul at our Feb. 22nd meeting, dinner at 6:00 pm with the degree at 7:00.

We hope that you can come to Lodge and show your support for our Brethren as they progress in Masonry. Haven't been to Lodge in a while? This is the perfect time to get a refresher course. You'll also see why so many good men are asking to join Damascus. Come and see for yourself. Damascus is on a roll!

## CONGRATULATIONS!!

Congratulations to WM Mike Fairbanks and his corps of Officers for 2011. January 23rd saw a great Installation attended by many Brethren and guests. We have a great corps of Officers to lead us this year and this was a great way to start.

Bro. Cookie ramped up the Installation with an outstanding meal! But, what did you expect? What would a Damascus event be without a great meal? Warm fellowship and great food. A Damascus Lodge tradition!!

We're look forward to a great year. Thank you, to all our new officers for taking on your new roles. We pledge our help and support to make this a great year for Damascus Lodge!

## SWEATHEARTS' BRUNCH - REMINDER

Brethren, if you are reading this and you have not yet made your reservation for the Sweetheart's Brunch on February 13th, you owe me! What are you going to use as an excuse if you don't bring your Sweetheart to the event of the year???

February 13th, 10:00 am at "The Packing House". Your Lady is free, but you have to pay. Only \$25.00 for all the great food and conversation you can possibly crave. Reservations are due by February 7th. Call Mick at 414-397-3076. Make your reservation NOW!! Or it will cost you a lot more than \$25.00.

### *SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:*

-  *Lodge Installation*
-  *Master's Message*
-  *Upcoming Events*
-  *Upcoming Degree Work*
-  *Sweet Hearts' Brunch*
-  *Chaplain's Pew*
-  *Counselor's Corner*

February 2011						
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					

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- 2/08 - Stated Meeting - 6pm Dinner, 7pm Lodge
- 2/12 - Scottish Rite - Last Full Measure - Lunch - Noon (\$15), Play 1pm
- 2/13 - Sweethearts Brunch - See Page 5
- 2/19 - MM Degree - Degree 5pm, with Dinner between the 1st and 2nd Sections
- 2/22 - Lodge - MM Degree - 6pm Dinner, 7pm Lodge

## COUNSELOR'S CORNER

### "By Being a Mason"

Brethren, this column was accidentally omitted from the January TrestleBoard. So please accept it at this time.

January marks the beginning of a new Masonic Year. As in life outside our Lodge, we make resolutions to improve this new year and make it even better than the last. It is a time of Resolutions; of promises of change and improvement.

Last year was a very good year for Damascus Lodge. We had many great events and had lots of fun together. We initiated several new brethren and became a stronger Lodge. We are now positioned to make this year GREAT!

How, you ask? By resolving to make next year the best year ever! We all know the purpose of Freemasonry is to make good men better. The common thread that bonds us all together is our desire to be better men. To be the best we can be!

How do we do that? By coming to Lodge!! At Damascus we meet and share with our Brethren, men who share with us the desire to improve ourselves. By working together we support one another and enable each other to be better men. By improving ourselves we improve our Lodge, our community, our country and our world.

How do we make our Lodge GREAT this year? By being a part of it! By attending the meetings; supporting our officers; enjoying the many outings; working for our charities; and supporting our new members and candidates. By BEING a MASON! Not just carrying a dues card, but by BEING! By being INVOLVED!

So let's make this resolution. Resolve that this year, 'I will BE a Mason!' If we all strive to accomplish that one little thing, we can be GREAT together in 2011. Happy New Year, Brethren! And what a year we can make it!!

See you in Lodge,

Mick Olson, PM

## THE MASTER'S MESSAGE

### **“A Masonic Journey”**

In June of 2007, if someone had explained to me that I would, in just four years be a Master Mason, I would have laughed until my sides hurt. If I had been told that not only would I be a Master Mason, but that I would be elected to that highest honor of serving the Brethren of my Lodge as Worshipful Master, I would have stopped laughing and called 911 to have that person admitted for mental observation.

While visiting my family in Ireland during July of 2007 my cousin introduced me to what would become one of the best things to happen in my life; Freemasonry. At the time I didn't know how much Masonry would come to mean to me, or how much I would come to value Masonry. In fact, at the time I was introduced to the Craft I lectured my cousin with the standard fifteen minute rant on the evils of Freemasonry, animal sacrifice, and other unmentionable pagan rituals performed in every regular and well governed Masonic Lodge, including goat polo!

Keeping an open mind at the request of my cousin, I “allowed” myself to be given a tour of his lodge. What I saw and what I ‘knew’ were two vastly different things. It was then I asked my cousin - “What IS a Mason and what does a Mason DO?” I then received a lesson in Masonic history, including the history of my mother's family in the Craft. Can you say “You now have my attention.”?

By October of 2007, with my petition submitted, I began my Masonic journey and became active in Damascus 290. Looking back, I now realize that all of the activities, all of the practices, fellowship, lessons, and learning were instilling confidence, a sense of self worth, and a different way of thinking about how things should be done.

During the past three and a half years, I have bonded and made friends with all of you. You have been behind me; indeed behind all of us who are new to Masonry and Damascus Lodge; always whispering good council and always gently guiding us in the right direction; and it shows, even in our everyday lives. Your encouragement, support, and good council have indeed led us to be better men.

So here we are, February 2011 has arrived and I have been entrusted with the leadership of Damascus 290. You, my Brethren of Damascus 290, have elected me to the East with your trust that I will fulfill my duties and responsibilities as Worshipful Master. I assure you every effort will be put forth, not only by me but also by the Line Officers, to ensure a most successful and active year.

Thank you to all who have taught, mentored, and supported us, as we, the newer Brethren have grown and progressed to take leadership roles. Thank you for your trust in our abilities to lead; but most of all, thank you for being our Brothers. As I look at the newly elected and appointed officers for this year, my confidence is 100% that we will be able to continue the good work and great fellowship we have all come to know and expect. With your continuing support, the newly elected and appointed officers for 2011 are looking forward to serving and putting forth our best effort to lead Damascus Lodge No. 290 through the next year. With the help of God, my line officers, and the Brethren of the Lodge, we WILL have a wildly successful year.

Bro. Michael L. Fairbanks  
Worshipful Master

## THE CHAPLAIN'S PEW



As I attempt to compile my thoughts into my first article for the trestleboard, I continue to think of my experience earlier today.

After returning home from my first School of Instruction, I sat down with my wife and discussed with her the emotional fullness I feel after a night at lodge. I was elated that I didn't forget my memory work in front of Masons that I didn't know, and the brotherhood that abounded from all the attendees. I was exposed to 'true Brotherhood' after fellow Brothers, many of whom I didn't know, introduced themselves and conversed with me. This small introduction is a prelude to my next morning . . . . .

Bright and early the next day I was awakened by my wife, who ever so gently reminded me that it was my day to take our daughter and three of her classmates to school. Lodge itself didn't last long the night before, but my discussion with my wife took us late into the night. I stumbled out of bed, and after an hour or so, got the kids to school. I carefully planned my day to include taking care of my mother's bird and picking up her apartment, as she is in physical rehab, and then a trip to visit her. I had a full day ahead of me and was not in the greatest mood for the obstacles that awaited.

After I was finished at the apartment, I found that I had about an hour before 'visiting hours'. GREAT! Enough time to stop at McDonalds for a nice, quick, quiet breakfast and read the morning paper.

I received my food order and proceeded to a table across from an elderly lady sitting alone in a booth facing me. I had just opened my paper and took my first bite of hotcakes when the woman asked me, "Do you like the Packers?" A little dumbfounded, I replied that it's hard not to. What I thought was going to be a quiet breakfast, alone, ended up being a meaningful conversation with an undoubtedly lonely lady, who just needed someone to talk to. I shrugged off my morning attitude and found myself in a conversation with her, ranging from old movies to soap operas, to her reminiscing about her uncle in World War 2 and how he served under General Patton. I was happy to, most of all, listen.

After our conversation, which was difficult to end, and eating my breakfast, I proceeded to pack up and leave. She told me to "Have a nice day, Sir." I felt good that I could, in a little way, make someone's day better.

I know that many who are reading this are trying to figure out where I am going with this. . . . .

In Freemasonry I have learned to stand upright, to assist those less fortunate, to be a better man, to be a better citizen, to improve and strengthen the moral character of the individual. I know that there are many, many more lessons to be learned, but these virtues came to the forefront this morning. Instead of retreating into my own cocoon during my encounter, my virtues stood tall, and though it appeared that the woman was not in distress, it was comforting to assist a person less fortunate. Her loneliness was a sign of need.

So, the next time you're out and about, and a less fortunate, lonely person needs someone to talk to, remember as a Mason, we can always assist by listening with an attentive ear.

Fraternally,

Brother Bert

**Swing yer pardner Roun' 'n Roun'**

**Bring 'er to the**

# **Damascus Hoedown**



**Sunday, March 27, 2011**

**3:00 pm**

**At the Lake Lodge Corral!**

**Enjoy a Damascus Style B.B.Q.**

**With all the fixins'!**



**Adults jus \$5.00, Yungins' is FREE!!!**

**Wear yer Cowboy best!**

**R.S.V.P. Sheriff Matt at 414-254-5677 or  
trowel80@hotmail.com b'fer March 17<sup>th</sup>**



**Put on yer Dancin' boots! Y'all be there now.  
Ya Hear!**

## COUNSELOR'S CORNER

### “Passing the Torch”

As a new Masonic year begins, we pass the torch of leadership to a new Corps of Officers. We celebrate this passing of power with a beautiful Installation Ceremony, during which we pray for God to guide our Officers and our Lodge through the ensuing year. We hope that each year will be even better than the last. That each, new year will see our Lodge grow stronger; that our members will grow stronger in Masonry.

We hope that the light from that torch of leadership will inspire our Officers to be the best they can be. To give their all to lead our Lodge. To cheerfully serve our Craft, and make us all proud.

As Masons, we pledge to dispense Masonic Light to those who seek it. As Officers of our Lodge, we pledge to take that Light and let it burn ever brightly, as we guide our Lodge into the darkness of the future. A future that can be made bright, so long as we continue to carry that Light.

Congratulations to our new Corps of Officers. Brethren, carry the torch of Damascus high, for all to see.

See you in Lodge!

Mick Olson, PM

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## INSTALLATION PHOTOS



# MORE INSTALLATION PHOTOS





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)

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*THE REAL SECRET OF FREEMASONRY*

*MAKING GOOD MEN BETTER*

## LODGE TRUSTEES

Patrick J. Militzer, P.M. (2011) 414-469-9804  
Mick Olson, P.M. (2012) 414-397-3076  
Dale A. Graeven, P.M. (2013) 414-764-8187

## SICK AND VISITATION CHAIRPERSON

Mathew Wright 414-254-5677

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## 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.

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## 2011 LODGE OFFICERS

Worshipful Master  
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Junior Deacon Tom Stachowiak  
Junior Steward Pete Czechorski  
Tiler Dale R. Graeven, P.M.  
Senior Deacon Nathan Butts  
Senior Steward Steve Manthey  
Counselor Mick Olson, P.M.  
Degree Director Michael B. Meyer, P.M.