



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

THE TRESTLEBOARD

Volume IX, Issue 2

February 2012



DEGREES

Congratulations to Robert Bertram and Jon Lomendola – our newest Entered Apprentices. We are all very happy that you have chosen to join our benevolent fraternity and you both make fine additions to our Lodge. Welcome Brothers.

Congratulations are also in order for Brothers Chris Balky and Jon Stollenwork who showed how hard they have been working and passed their EA posting examinations before all the brethren during the Stated Meeting on January 10th. Great Job Brothers!

That means the Damascus degree team will have two FC's to confer in February, which is planned for February 28th, 2012. Dinner of course starts at 6pm sharp.

We hope that you can come to Lodge and show your support for our Brethren as they progress in Masonry. If you haven't been to Lodge in a while, this is the perfect time to refresh your memory of how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity. You'll also see why so many good men are asking to join Damascus. Come and see for yourself, Damascus is definitely on a roll!

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

-  *Sweethearts' Brunch*
-  *Master's Message*
-  *Upcoming Events*
-  *Counselor's Corner*
-  *Lodge Photos*
-  *By the Plumb*

GENEROSITY

The Tylers of the 9 Chapter of the Widows' Sons Masonic Riders Association, whose members include Damascus Brothers; Loren Salsman, Tom Tinney, Paul Peacock and Tom Stachowiak, stopped by SHARE in December to make a donation. SHARE IS a nonprofit food buying club that is run strictly by volunteers. The Tylers presented a check for \$150 to SHARE's Sheila Cares Program named after Bro. Loren's beloved wife Sheila. The Tylers just celebrated their 1st year anniversary and to date, this donation makes a current total of \$850 to the Sheila Cares fund. Way to go Brothers!



SWEETHEARTS' BRUCH REMINDER

Brethren do not forget to get your reservations into Bro. Sean Schult for the Sweethearts' Brunch happening at the Packing House Restaurant on February 12th, 2012 at 10:00am. If you are reading this now, you better hurry or as Ricky Ricardo would say "You have some e'splaining to do!"

Ladies of the Lodge are of course free; however, the Brothers have to pay \$25.00. If you have never attended this event in the past, \$25 may seem a lot, but ask anyone who has gone before and they will tell you the food, the atmosphere, the fellowship – everything makes it well worth it. Come on out, bring your sweetie and see for yourself.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

February 10th – School of Instruction at Henry L Palmer Lodge, 4315 North 92nd Street, Wauwatosa. The school bell rings at 7 pm.

February 12th – Sweethearts Brunch at The Packing House Restaurant, 900 East Layton Avenue, Milwaukee. The brunch starts at 10:00 am.

February 14th – Stated Meeting, Dinner starts at 6:00pm, meeting opens a 7:00pm sharp.

February 15th - Scottish Rite - 20th Degree - George Washington Degree, 6pm Dinner, 7pm Degree

February 22nd – Table Lodge at George Washington 1776 Lodge, 517 E. Beaumont Ave., Whitefish Bay. The festivities start at 7pm.

February 23rd – 26th It’s the Tripoli Shrine Circus

February 28th – Two FC Degrees. Dinner starts at 6pm sharp.

COUNSELOR’S CORNER

“Avoid all irregularities and intemperance”

My favorite degree is the Entered Apprentice degree. It is my favorite because not only is it the first introduction into a Lodge for a candidate, it is delete is also begins his Masonic journey and is the first of many Masonic lessons.

During the first or Entered Apprentice degree, we learn a little about what is expected of us as Masons, including an introduction to Masonic behavior. You are “charged” with “avoiding all irregularities and intemperance which may impair our faculties or debase the dignity of your profession”.

How often do we see a person in a car suddenly and abruptly make an obscene gesture for reasons that only he knows? The likely hood that you would see a square and compasses bumper sticker on that vehicle is slim, and what would a Mason do in retaliation? Or the question should be “What should a Mason do in retaliation?”

When we deal and work with our own families, especially those members who are teenagers, how should we as Masons handle an errant child? How we deal with people in our lives and how we conduct ourselves around people outside of the home defines how the fraternity as a whole is perceived by non-Masons.

If for any reason we do not put our best foot forward, then we bring dishonor to everything that Freemasonry stands for, in short we dishonor our apron. When we are in public, we as Masons need to be careful to always put our best foot forward, our best behavior on public display and by doing so we will all keep the craft untarnished.

See you at the next meeting, be there AND be square.

Michael L. Fairbanks PM

THE MASTER'S MESSAGE

A Fun Filled Year Ahead

It's already February?!? Geesh. The Past Master's told me this year would go by fast and they weren't joking. Speaking of the Past Masters, I cannot stress how important these men are to our beloved Lodge. I myself have already asked them a million questions and each question has been met with an attentive ear, followed by sound and knowledgeable advice. Sometimes the degree director seems to be a little grumpy, but Brother Secretary always tells me to "never mind him." Our wise Past Masters are there for ALL of us when we need them and I encourage all of you to take some time to ask them a question or two and marvel at the Masonic knowledge they possess.

January was jammed pack with all sorts of events and February seems to be following the same course. In January, we not only celebrated Brother Bernie Baumgardner's 60th Anniversary of being a Mason, but we also had a School of Instruction, an Officer Planning Tea, three EA practices, two EA degrees and a District 12 Winter Meeting. Whew!!

Like I stated before, February definitely seems to be following the same Course. On February 12th at 10:00am, we will be honoring the sweethearts of the Lodge at the annual Sweethearts' Brunch. The brunch will be held at the Packing House Restaurant on Layton Ave. Last year the Sweethearts Brunch was very well attended and we hope to see all the lovely ladies of the Lodge again this year.

On March 9th, the Jobies of Bethal #6 will be honoring all the Masonic Bodies with their usual fervent energy and happiness. Please come and support the girls as they take time to Honor all of us. It should be a splendid evening. Also in March, the Grand Lodge of Wisconsin is having a degree competition covering the 2nd part of the MM degree on March 31st and of course, we think there is no one better than us, so we are presently busy putting a degree team together for this competition. If you would like to join us, get please contact Bro. Tom Stachoviak at tstach@wi.rr.com.

In April I'm hoping we can reinvigorate an old Damascus event that I wish I could have gone to and that's the Miller Park tour. We don't have a specific date for that event yet, but if our plans come together, more information will follow. Also in April we'll be having the Damascus Hoedown again. Last year everyone had a wonderful time at this event and this year we hope it will be even better. We scheduled it for April 29th with hopes that by the end of April we will have warmer weather than we did last year. But as they say in Wisconsin, if you don't like the weather....wait a while.

In May we plan on making Damascus history with the first ever Damascus Knife and Fork Degree. I am very curious about this event, because I've never had the opportunity to

witness this degree before and with the Damascus boys – this should be something! If you are like me and your curiosity gets the best of you, please come and join us on May 29th, the fifth Tuesday in May.

On June 1st and 2nd, the Grand Lodge of Wisconsin will be having its Annual Communication. In addition to that, in June we are hoping to have a little redemption on the mini-golf course against the Jobies of Bethel #6. The actual date for the mini-golf rematch has yet to be determined, but as soon as we get a date set, we put out the information for everyone.

On July 29th, the last Sunday in July, we will be having a Damascus Family Picnic at Wilson Park on Howard Avenue. Nothing is better than family, so this will no doubt be a great time had by all.

August is known as the month "the fair comes to town" and for Damascus that means the Bristol Renaissance Fair. With all the food, the crafts, the entertainment – especially the greatest show in Earth, the Ren Fair will make the trip down on August 29th to Bristol definitely worth your while.

The brethren will need to get their trigger fingers ready and their 'hunger to win need for speed primed before the annual "Damascus 290" slot car races at Lucky Bob's Raceway on September 25th. But don't be stingy with the fun; bring a friend to the event....more especially, a potential member.

Along with the fall weather, October brings the annual Past Master's dinner on October 14th. Along with the Past Master's dinner we will be having the Damascus Halloween Party. I consider myself lucky, because I don't have to wear a costume to scare anyone, but this should be a fun event for the entire family.

In November I would like Damascus to pay special recognition to the Veterans of our Lodge. Along with these honored members, we will also be recognizing those brothers that have achieved spectacular milestones in Masonry, along with the Damascus Lodge Mason of the Year. Details will follow as we get closer to this event.

To close the year with a bang, in December we plan on attending the Ye Olde Christmas Feast or the Christmas Carol play (again, details will come out in the Trestleboard); along with our beloved Toys-for-Tots toy drive.

So as you can see, we have a fun and eventful year planned. I personally am pleased with the calendar, it doesn't consist of too many events. That said, the events we do have are of good quality. I hope to see many of you out at these events and at our stated meetings.

Matt Wright
Worshipful Master



Love is in the Air...

At

The Annual Damascus Lodge

Sweet Hearts Brunch

Sunday, February 12th, 10:00am

At The Packing House
Restaurant

3900 East Layton Avenue
Milwaukee, Wisconsin



***Ladies of the Lodge are our guests,
\$25 is the cost for all others.***

Contact Bro. Sean Schult at 414-469-0305 if you're interested.



BY THE PLUMB

Well Brethren, another installation season comes to a close. I had the pleasure to attend many of them in our district and a few outside of District 12. Besides the installations of Masonic Lodges, our youth groups were installing new officers also.

On Saturday Jan. 7th, the Doric Chapter of DeMolay installed Brandon Schuk as Master Councilor; Ethan Harycki, brother of Damascus Lodge's Entered Apprentice Jake Harycki, as Senior Councilor; and Paul Graeven, son and grandson of Damascus's own Dale A. and Dale R. Graeven, as Junior Councilor. On Friday January 13, Job's Daughters Bethel #6 installed as their Honored Queen, Caitlyn Cigale. Colleen Athy was installed as Senior Princess and Tyler Fons was installed as Junior Princess. Both ceremonies were well attended and performed flawlessly by their members. Congratulations to all the officers and I look forward to attending many of their meetings.

One of the more unique ceremonies I was able to attend was the combined installation of Ozaukee Lodge #17 and Job's Daughters Bethel #60. It was only the third or fourth time a combined installation of Masons and Jobies was performed in the history of Wisconsin Masonry. Grand Master Davey L. White, Jr. presided as Installing Master. The finale of the ceremony was after the performance of the Living Cross; the girls walked a lap around the lodge room and stopped at each Lodge Officer's station so they could be escorted by that Officer. It was quite an elegant affair.

Doric Chapter will be performing the Initiatory Degree on Thursday February 2nd for Ryan Thiele, son of Lake Lodge's Jeff Thiele. Rumor has it that Lake Lodge will be in attendance for that degree to show their support for Ryan. I've been told that if you haven't seen the Initiatory Degree, you don't want to miss this. I haven't seen it, therefore I will be attending. Hopefully some brothers from Damascus will join me so I don't have to face down all those Lake Lodge ruffians, er... members by myself.

On Friday February 10th, Henry L. Palmer Lodge #337 will be hosting a School of Instruction. Damascus will be responsible for performing the reception of Grand Lodge Officers and the calling up and down to Lodges of different degrees. I strongly encourage attendance at Schools of Instruction by our Lodge Officers and anyone who would like to someday become an officer. They are chocked full of information including the little tidbits that most of us miss or didn't even know existed and I'm sure most of us can use a little polishing of our techniques.

Until next month Brothers, I'll see you on the road.

Bro. Tom Stachowiak
Junior Warden

MASONIC MILESTONES

John Lukich – Feb. 12th, 1964 – 48 years
Eckhard Tetzlaff – Feb. 9th, 1973 – 39 years
Robert Yunker – Feb. 24th, 1981 – 31 years
Pat Militzer – Feb. 15th, 2003 – 9 years

Michael Fairbanks – Feb. 26th, 2008 – 4 years
Sean Schult – Feb. 29th, 2008 – 4 years
Jason Williams – Feb. 19th, 2011 – 1 year
Paul Peacock – Feb. 22nd, 2011 – 1 year

Congratulations Brothers!!!!



Beannachtaí na Féile Pádraig oraibh!

Or as we say around these parts....

HAPPY
ST. PATRICK'S
DAY!

If you haven't been to Lodge in a while,
come Celebrate with us Irish Style
during our Stated Meeting on March
13th. Bro. Cookie be will making the
finest Irish Fare, don't miss out.

LODGE PHOTOS





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

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THE REAL SECRET OF FREEMASONRY
-
MAKING GOOD MEN BETTER

LODGE TRUSTEES

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Dale A. Graeven, P.M. (2013) 414-764-8187
Patrick J. Militzer, P.M. (2014) 414-469-9804

SICK AND VISITATION CHAIRPERSON

Sean Schult 414-469-0305

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.

2012 LODGE OFFICERS

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Senior Deacon Steve Manthey
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