



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

# THE TRESTLEBOARD

Volume XI, Issue II

February 2014



## BLACK AND BLUE

Bikers invade the sleepy little town of Damascus on March 23, 2013. You won't want to miss this! Put on your Blue Denim and Black Leather and join us at 3:00 pm for the first ever, Black & Blue Ball. Enjoy good food, games, and more. Adults are \$5.00, households are just \$10.00. That means the kids are free! Bring a prospective member and his family. See the details in the flyer.

This is your chance to dress like 'The Fonz' and let out that 'Inner Biker'. You know you were "Born to be Wild!" Get your reservations to Bro. Bert before March 15th, or lose your license to ride!

## G.O.A.T. STRIKE!

January 16, 2014. 18:15 hrs. Six G.O.A.T. (Gavel Operations Assault Team) Members assembled as requested at Pot Belly's sub shop on the corner of Capitol and 124th. After a briefing (brief meal) they entered their G.O.A.T. transport vehicles for the conveyance to the assault point and moved directly to their objective, Wisconsin Lodge No. 13.

Upon arrival we were met by another team member. Total assault force: Seven. As the Brethren of Wisconsin Lodge began to open, it was noted that Palmer Lodge had also arrived to steal the gavel and also had seven members present. An urgent communique was sent to our 'ace in the hole' who departed work and sped to the Lodge, arriving literally in the nick of time, entering the Lodge Room just as the count was being taken. That was close!!

The Brethren of Palmer Lodge pled to have the count postponed in hopes of another last minute arrival, but to no avail. There would be no more arrivals and Damascus Lodge had carried the night, stealing the valued D-12 Traveling Gavel.

Huge thanks to G.O.A.T. Members W.M. Mick, J.W. Nate, J.D. Scott, J.S. Don, Chap. Matt, Bro. Stach, Bro Matt W., and special speedster Bro. Suga for accomplishing our mission. We had a great time and enjoyed the warm fellowship our craft is known for.

## OOOPS, WE DID IT AGAIN.

On January 20, 2014, feeling repentant for stealing the gavel out from under the noses of Palmer Lodge less than a week earlier, (snif) the G.O.A.T. Team once again assembled for a briefing at Pot Belly's and this time, their objective was Palmer Lodge.

Nine Damascus Brothers stormed into Palmer Lodge and were treated to two very well conferred Entered Apprentice Degrees. After the degrees were conclude, the Team presented

the Traveling Gavel to WM Khris Kay and apologized for our rudeness at our last meeting.

A Damascus sized thank you to our Team members: W.M. Mick, S.W. Curt, J.W. Nate, S.D. Paul, J.S. Don, Bro. Stach, Bro. Bob B., Bro. Dave M., and Bro. Paul G. for completing this mission. Two successful G.O.A.T. Missions in under a week! We have only begun!

### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

-  *A Christmas Carol*
-  *Master's Meesage*
-  *Lodge Events*
-  *Lodge Activity*
-  *Black & Blue*
-  *Echoes from the West*
-  *Chaplain's Corner*

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS FOR THE BEGINNING OF 2014

Date	Event	Date	Event
Feb 2	Sweethearts Brunch** (11:00 am)	Mar 23	Black & Blue Ball (3:00 pm) (F&F)
Feb 25	Movie Night 6:00pm (With Lake Lodge)	Mar 28(?)	Bethel #6 Honor Masons Night

(F) denotes family event

\*\* Spouses/Partners Invited

(F&F) family and friends invited

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### ECHOES FROM THE WEST

“Pay it forward” is a popular phrase used in our society. From ‘The Urban Dictionary’: “A phrase used to imply or otherwise act upon the action in which one would perform a deed of good service onto, for, or in the favor of another person or group of persons with the sound intentions that the only thing they do in return is to perform a deed of good service onto, for, or in the favor of another person or group of persons where in which they should maintain the same sound intentions of the individual or group who performed a good deed unto them. This method of kindness is infallible unless met with a person of great greed and/or immaturity.”

You may have seen the movie ‘Pay It Forward’ or have read the novel of the same name, a story about a young boy who did three good deeds for others in need. In return, all that the child wanted was that they pass on the good deed to three other people and keep the cycle going.

The concept of getting others by your actions to also perform selfless actions that can spread across society is such a good thing. Our ‘Me Society’ needs to change to a ‘We Society’. Masons have already found the satisfaction of charity and good works. Now, society is finding the benefits and joy of doing good works for the sake of spreading the enjoyment of these actions. Let us all ‘Pay it Forward’ igniting the world in good deeds as Masons have been taught.

Bro. Curt Campagna, P. M.,  
Senior Warden

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### CHAPLAIN’S CORNER

#### “The Mason Effect”

Over the past few months there have been a number of stories about a noticeable resurgence within the Catholic Church, generally referred to as the “Francis Effect”. In essence, attendance at Mass around the globe has been markedly higher due to long-time Catholics who previously drifted away from the church being inspired to return to the faith by the new Pope’s radical message. Some key principles of that pastoral philosophy include emphasizing faith, tolerance, justice, and charity for the poor. If this sounds familiar, it should.

As Masons, we are taught piety so we maintain devotion to religious duties. At the onset of our Masonic journey the importance of brotherly love and relief is impressed upon us. As such, we believe we are all children of God, and consequently we should respect, regard, and care for all people as equals, regardless of differing backgrounds or beliefs. We also believe firmly in contributing to the relief of those less fortunate than ourselves. Granted, these concepts are not exclusive to Freemasonry, but we can take a measure of pride in knowing that by pure coincidence, the Vatican is effectively asking clergy and parishioners to act more like...Masons.

Just as embracing and embodying these religious precepts and moral principles are aiding Catholic congregations worldwide, adhering to these values that we’ve long cherished will undoubtedly strengthen our noble fraternity, and help us share the light of Masonry.

Bro. Matt Hanchek  
Lodge Chaplain

## THE MASTER'S MESSAGE

### TIME

I often hear the comment, "I just don't have enough time." What is usually meant is "I don't have enough time to do that." Of all the blessings the Supreme Architect has given us, the one commodity that he has given all men equal shares of... is time. No matter how high or low, rich or poor, God has blessed us all with an equal amount of time. What distinguishes us is how we choose to use our allotment of time. I see people who sit in front of the television all day and complain that they don't have time to get active in the community. I see people who join everything, only to find they don't have enough time to do anything.

Brethren, as many of you know, the secret is organization. You must budget your time. You must make priorities. My Father once told me, you can do anything you want, you just can't do everything you want.

Our Lodge functions just like any other family. Like the younger members of a family, as a Lodge member you don't need to budget a lot of time for Lodge. Your job is to enjoy membership, attend meetings and events, help out here and there, and learn about Masonry.

As you become more active in Lodge and sit on committees, or take on special projects, the Lodge requires more of your time. Like teenagers who have chores to help the household operate and function.

If you commit to being an Officer of the Lodge, you will need to budget yet more time. And once you become a Primary Officer, your Lodge duties need to be given the proper priority. Like a parent, the future of the family depends on your efforts and dedication. As the Master of a Lodge, you must be constantly thinking about the welfare and health of your Lodge Family.

Think you're done? No way! As a Past Master, your job, much like a grandparent, is to help even more. To support the current officers and offer guidance and suggestions. To impart the wisdom learned during your years advancing through the officer ranks, all the while balancing between helping and taking over. To be there when, and if the Master needs you! To pitch in without being asked, because you can see the holes that need to be filled, the tasks that need to be accomplished.

In Lodge we've always said that your family comes first, then your job, then your church. We hope the Lodge is next on your list of priorities. We need everyone's help! But don't be afraid to say no if asked to take on a task you do not have time to accomplish. But be honest, is it really "I just don't have enough time."

When you do have the spare time, get active in our Lodge. Take on the tasks you have time to perform and complete those tasks 'on time'. If your desire is to lead, you must dedicate your time to that goal. If you do not, you are not only cheating yourself, but the Lodge as well. We all took an obligation and while none of us would intentionally cheat, wrong or defraud our Lodge, isn't that what we are doing when we say we will complete a task or take on a new role, and then don't follow through and complete our assignment. The Lodge is counting on you to do what you said you would do.

Brethren, our Lodge is blessed to have many new members and a full corps of officers. We are all learning together. Most of our officers are relatively new to the craft. We have asked them to dedicate their time to performing their duties. We expect them to live up to their obligation and do so.

In return, we MUST support them. As good as they are, they can't do it all. Attend meetings when you can. Take on a Lodge project. Learn a new ritual part. Give what time you can. Perhaps take the next step and become an officer. To be successful, our Lodge needs you...and your time. However much you can give.

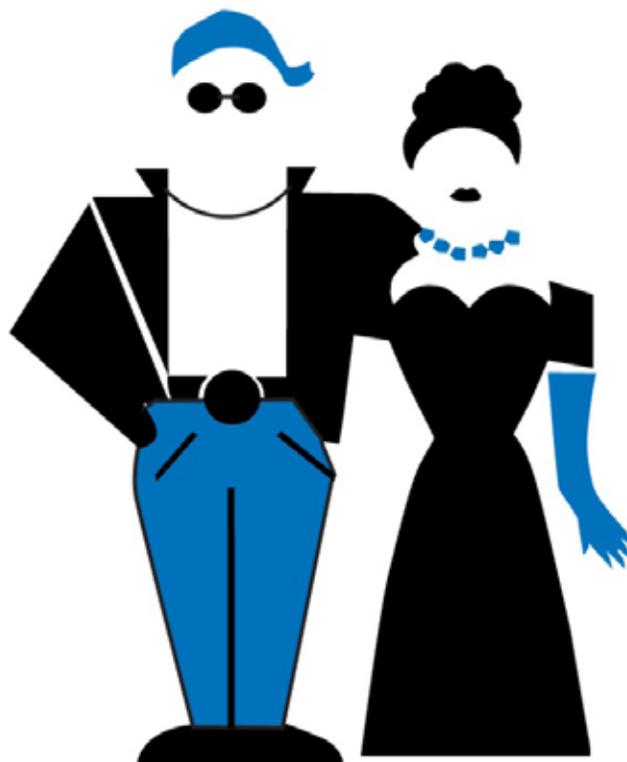
See you in the Lodge!

Mick Olson



*Join us*

**MARCH 23, 2014 3:00 PM  
FOR THE DAMASCUS LODGE**



**BLACK & Blue**  
**B A L L**

**FAMILY FUN, FOOD & GAMES**

**WEAR YOUR BLUE DENIM &  
BLACK LEATHER**

**Adults \$5.00; \$10.00 per household!**

**At Lake Masonic Center**

**RSVP Bro. Bert, 414-486-0806 before **March 15th****

## LODGE ACTIVITY PHOTOS



### A CHRISTMAS CAROL

As we begin this new year and everything starts to return to normal after the holidays, I'd like to take a second to rewind back to Damascus 290's Lodge outing event for December: "A Christmas Carol" as presented by West Bend Lodge No. 138

Admittedly, having been inside West Bend Lodge on multiple occasions, I was not sure what to expect about the quality of community theater at such a seemingly small venue. I was excited to see some of our brothers from West Bend, and figured this would be a nice, quiet way to spend a Sunday evening, and that would have all been worth the trip no matter what.

But this performance completely blew my mind! We all know the tale, of course, of old Mr. Scrooge and how his Christmas Eve "visitors" helped to shine light upon his darkened heart. We've all seen it presented before, whether live, in cartoon format, or even in the form of a Hollywood comedy with a modern spin. But this was something new to me. Local actors and actresses of all different ages brought the classical characters to life in a way that made you feel like you were in the very room when Jacob Marley sent chills down Scrooge's spine. Of course, we were ACTUALLY in the room, as the cozy venue of West Bend's Lodge Room provided an upfront, close and personal view for every seat in the house. Combine such a powerful demonstration of theater with a Damascus man's favorite thing (food-there were delicious treats at intermission), and West Bend's "A Christmas Carol" gets five stars from me!

Special thanks to West Bend Lodge No. 138 and all of the cast and crew for putting on such a wonderful show!

Bro. Scott Fairbanks  
Junior Deacon



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. (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

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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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## 2014 LODGE OFFICERS

Worshipful Master  
Charles 'Mick' Olson, P.M. [worshipful.master@dl290.org](mailto:worshipful.master@dl290.org)

Senior Warden  
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Junior Warden  
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Chaplain Matthew Hanchek  
Junior Deacon Scott M. Fairbanks  
Junior Steward Don O'Kray  
Senior Deacon Paul E. Peacock  
Senior Steward Brian Bertram  
Tiler Dale R. Graeven, P.M.