



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

# THE TRESTLEBOARD

Volume VI, Issue 3

March 2009



## BRUNCH WITH OUR SWEETIES!!

On February 15th many of the Brethren joined in honoring the most important women on earth, our Sweethearts! Brunch at The Packing House was terrific. We ate, talked, ate, joked and ate. Then we had dessert! Another event steeped in Damascus tradition.

A wonderful time was had by all and we thank everyone who attended, especially our favorite widows. It was nice to see them again. We thank them and everyone else who attended for supporting the lodge and our functions.

## ALOHA!

Join us on March 22nd 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.

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. Get your reservations to Mick, by March 7th. Book it Dan-O!

## DEGREE WORK

Brethren, we have new petitions and new members!! The Lodge renaissance continues as we bring in new members. We are privileged to have many, very outstanding new candidates receiving their Masonic degrees at Damascus. Our Officers and Degree Teams are doing outstanding work. The only thing missing is...YOU! Please come and support our newest members. Nothing compares to seeing a full lodge room when you are brought to light. Come and share your light with our new Brethren. Brethren, we have new petitions and new members!! The Lodge renaissance continues as we bring in new members. We are privileged to have many, very outstanding new candidates receiving their Masonic degrees at Damascus. Our Officers and Degree Teams are doing outstanding work. The only thing missing is...YOU! Please come and support our newest members. Nothing compares to seeing a full lodge room when you are brought to light. Come and share your light with our new Brethren.

## REMINDER: 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.

### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

-  *Sweetheart's Brunch*
-  *Aloha!*
-  *Echo's from the West*
-  *Chaplain's Message*
-  *Master's Message*
-  *Upcoming Events*
-  *At the Right Hand*
-  *Milwaukee Iron*

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE :

Echo's from the West	2
Chaplain's Corner	2
Master's Message	3
Birthdays	4
Lodge Officers	4
Anniversaries	4
At the Right Hand	5
Lodge Events	6
Pics from the Past	8

## ECHO'S FROM THE WEST

Brethren,

This month we reflect on another compass point and a very appropriate term in Masonry.

**West:** In the early ages of the world, the wisdom of men was concentrated in the easternmost parts of the earth; and the nations which had disseminated themselves along the shores of the Mediterranean, to the West of the plains of Shinar, were obliged to return to the East in search of the knowledge of their forefathers. The West was then a place of darkness, and he who sought light was obliged to leave it and travel to the East. In astronomy, there is the same peculiarity in relation to the course of light. The earth revolves upon its axis from west to east. But the sun rises in the latter point, and while the eastern hemisphere is enjoying the light of day, the western parts of the globe are enveloped in darkness; until, by the diurnal revolution of the earth, they are brought towards the East, and placed within the influence of the enlightening rays of the solar orb. Masons do not forget these facts in history and science; and they know that he who, being in the darkness of the West, would seek true light, must travel to the East.

**Instruction, Lodge of:** These are assemblies of brethren congregated without a warrant of constitution, under the direction of a Lecturer or skillful brother for the purpose of improvement in Masonry, which is accomplished by the frequent rehearsal of the work and lectures of each degree. These bodies should consist exclusively of Master Masons, and though they possess no Masonic power, it is evident to every Mason that they are extremely useful, as schools of preparation for the duties that are afterwards to be performed in the regular lodge.

With that I close, hoping to see many of you at the upcoming Lodges of Instruction.

Yours Fraternally,  
Larry Chadderdon  
Senior Warden

## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Brethren,

Here we are, starting the third month of this new year. The promises we made as New Year resolutions may be quickly fading, but if we use our Masonic code as a guide, all the things that really matter and need to change will fall into place. To have a better future we need only to remember the basic principles of self improvement and family responsibility, and then our community will start to change in a positive direction. When we call upon the Supreme Architect and follow the tenets of Freemasonry, all we need to accomplish will be done. Our life will be blessed and the good works of the Lord will be completed. As we progress in the calendar and Masonic year, may we all remember to call upon the Grand Architect and follow in his path. Blessings to the Brethren, our families, and the Widows who have been left behind.

Your servant,

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.*

## THE MASTER'S MESSAGE

### A Band of Brothers



Worshipful Master  
Mick Olson

Brethren,

Wow! What a start. This year is starting out hectic and strong. When you look back at the past two months, we've almost done enough for a whole year! Thank you to the Brethren and Ladies who attended our Sweetheart's Brunch and the Jobie's Honor Masons night. We had a great time! Coming up is the Luau, Milwaukee Iron Arena Football, and the list goes on. Busy year! FunYear!!

And one of the most exciting parts is seeing our new officers and new members getting involved! Not just involved, but jumping in with both feet! These guys rock!! They're working hard; learning new parts and are just the guys we can count on to lead us into the future. Us old guys just need to hang on and enjoy the ride!

That's one of the greatest things about Masonry, and more especially Damascus Lodge. When you look at the divergent pasts that brought such an eclectic group of men together, it's hard to believe that this particular group would have found each other in any other organization in this world. Jesse Jackson has nothing on our rainbow coalition. Name a background, we got it. Name a profession, we got it. Nationality, got it covered. Pick a size...okay, most of us are in the XL range, but we've got some smaller guys, too! An extraordinary group of men, in a truly extraordinary organization.

I am privileged to know you all and to call you all Brother. And there is the wonderful thing about Masonry. In Masonry we judge men not by the nobility of their blood, but by the nobility of their character. And while there is no doubt we've got lots of characters, we also have a lot of character.

There are men in our lodge who will give you the shirt off their back. If you call them in the middle of the night they'll only ask where you need them to be. Men who define the term Brother. Men who are not Brothers by blood, but men who are bound by stronger ties.

To those of you who haven't been to lodge in a while, we invite you to come and participate in this brotherhood. Come and see for yourself. Damascus is coming on strong. Word is getting around. Come out and be a part of this Band of Brothers!

For those of you who are already experiencing this wonderful brotherhood, thank you. Thank you for supporting the lodge. Thank you for your dedication. Thank you for being such a special part of my life. Thank you for being my Brother!

See you in Lodge!

Mick Olson  
Worshipful Master



## 2009 LODGE OFFICERS

### Worshipful Master

Charles "Mick" Olson (Jewel)  
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worshipful.master@dl290.org  
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### Senior Warden

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### Junior Warden

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### Treasurer

Louis W. Montgomery, P.M. (Marian)  
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### Secretary

Michael B. Meyer, P.M. (Deborah)  
13060 W. National Ave., New Berlin, WI 53151

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### Chaplain Donald O'Kray

**Senior Deacon** Michael Fairbanks

**Junior Deacon** Sean Schult

**Senior Steward** Jon Syverson

**Junior Steward** Dennis McNulty

**Counselor** Curt Campagna, P.M.

**Tiler** Dale R. Graeven, P.M.

**Degree Director** Michael B. Meyer, P.M.

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## 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.

Bernard Strachota - 3/11/1966 - 43 years

Kyle Olson - 3/13/2007 - 2 years

## 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!"

Byron Borck - 3/1

Elwyn Hart - 3/8

Stephen Braley - 3/11

Dale A. Graeven - 3/11

J. Todd Roseman - 3/11

Jeffrey J. Chadderdon - 3/31

"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)

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## AT THE RIGHT HAND

### “The Words That Are Thereunto Annexed”

All Master Masons know the words to which this statement alludes and fully understands its meaning. For the benefit our Entered Apprentice and Fellow Craft Masons, those “Annexed” words are the call for help by a Brother Master Mason in serious trouble.

As new Entered Apprentices, Fellow Crafts, and Master Masons, often we wish to do whatever we can to help around the Lodge and to take some form of an active role. The officers and members of the Lodge truly appreciate the zeal and willingness of our new Brethren. But as newer Masons, we have a lack of Masonic education and a yearning to learn as much as we can. It is a natural progression of interest.

While receiving and conferring each degree, we learn a bit of Masonic history, ritual, and protocol which are passed to us by our conductors and the participants during each degree. Under the right circumstances even more Masonic education is gleaned during dinners, degree practices, and other opportune moments when we gather at Masonic venues outside of our own Lodge. Sometimes we make mistakes. Sometimes we say or do something that is comfortable and thought to be correct, only to discover later that we were wrong. Perhaps an incorrect word, or a wrongly placed word or words, perhaps a wrong turn or floor work timing being off.

Where do we find light? We have one extremely valuable resource new Brethren should feel comfortable tapping into. Long time Brethren, most of who are Past Masters, have always been willing to step up and advise me personally. When I have misstepped during degree practice or stumbled during labor, many long time Brothers have graciously offered the correct way to do something, or have corrected a word here or there. Newer Brothers might want to sit with our elder Brethren at dinner or on the sidelines during Lodge and during degrees, where questions can easily be asked. Advice and pointers are freely given.

Look around our Lodge and amongst our members and you will see many good men. Look beyond those men and you find multitude years of Masonic history, education, experience, and stories just waiting to jump out and teach. What a perfect opportunity opportunities to learn about the history of our Lodge and the Brethren who came before us, to question Past Masters and other long time Brethren on the differences of ritual, posting exams, or even Lodge protocol ten years ago compared to now, or discover the labors that created our Lodge. What a perfect opportunity to experience friendship, morality, and brotherly love.

“The Words That Are Thereunto Annexed” might be too strong for this discussion; however, asking for help or advice from someone within the Lodge will certainly help bring light and knowledge in the most Masonic fashion possible.

Michael Fairbanks, Senior Deacon

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OOOOOOPS!!

We extend our apologies for the postage error in mailing the February Trestleboard. As I'm sure you noticed, the Trestleboard was larger, and better than usual. Unfortunately, we forgot to check the weight and mailed them with deficient postage. We thank everyone for their understanding and kicking in the extra postage. We'll make sure it doesn't happen again.

# MARCH 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

- 3/7 - District Meeting at Lake Lodge 8:30 Coffee, 9:00 Meeting
- 3/10 - School of Instruction - 6pm - Dinner, 7pm - School Starts.
- 3/19 - School of Instruction - Lake Lodge 7pm
- 3/22 - Lodge Luau, Family Event - 3:00pm until ???
- 3/24 - Stated Meeting - 6pm Dinner, 7pm Lodge
- 4/14 - Stated Meeting - 6pm Dinner, 7pm Lodge, 7:30pm FC Degree
- 5/1 - Milwaukee Iron Football Event - See Page 7
- 5/17 - Puppy Party!!! - More details forthcoming, watch for it in the next issue!

## 2009 Upcoming Event Schedule

Mar 22	Luau (3:00 pm) (Friends & Family)
May 1	Milwaukee Iron Arena Football Game (Family)
May 17	Puppy Party (Spouses and Partners)
Jun 5&6	Grand Lodge
Jun 28	Slinger Speedway (Family)
Jul 12	Mini Golf - Damascus Lodge Open (Friends & Family)
TBA	Jobie Baseball Game (Take ice cream)



**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 24<sup>TH</sup>!!**



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

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.

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## "CAN YOU NAME THESE PAST HONORED QUEENS?"

