



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

THE TRESTLEBOARD

Volume XI, Issue III

March 2014



BEAUTY AND THE BRUNCH

The 2014 Damascus Sweethearts' Brunch was held on February second at the Silver Spring Country Club. Each member brought a sweetheart with them, except for Brother Sugar Cube, who brought two sweethearts. These young guys are always showing off, aren't they?

We had a total of 41 people in attendance for a wonderful meal, great conversation and warm fellowship. If you have never been to the Silver Spring Country Club, I would highly recommend going. There was plenty of room for everyone as we were in a room all to ourselves with round tables that seated eight each for easy conversation. The food was great, especially the omelets! The views of the snow covered golf course were Awesome! And the chocolate fountain was something I think we should consider for the Lodge building as a permanent fixture!

I finally figured out why Brother Curt always wants to be the one to give the ladies roses at the end of the event. It is because of all the wonderful smiles and hugs he gets from all the beautiful ladies in attendance!

Bro. Paul Peacock, Senior Deacon

TIME TO GET BLACK AND BLUE

You've seen the flier. You saw the 'save the date' message. Now it's time. Time to get black and Blue! And let out the biker in you!

On Sunday, March 23rd it's time to assemble 'The Gang'. Break out the BLACK leather jacket and pull on those BLUE jeans and join us at Lake Masonic Center for the first ever, Black and Blue Ball. Come and enjoy an afternoon unlike any other ever had at Damascus Lodge. Enjoy some biker music, get that tattoo you were always afraid to get (Your Mom won't be there.) at 'Bad Biker Ink', eat like a king and enjoy the brotherhood of Damascus.

There will be fun and games, including a duck pond for the kids! Dancing (just don't look) at the 'Loud Pipes Clubhouse' and food. Did I mention food? Not just any food, biker food! Stop by 'Bubba's BBQ Pit' and experience the taste of heaven. Fuel up at the 'High Octane Bar'. You won't want to go home! Bring your cameras!! You'll want to remember this.

The fun starts at 3 pm. Adults are \$5.00, households are just \$10.00. That means the kids are free! (Eat as many as you want!) Bring a prospective member and his family. See the details in the flyer. 'Get your motors runnin'! You could be 'leader of the pack!' You know you were 'born to be wild.' This is your day! Your chance to be 'King of the Road!' Make your reservation with Bro. Bert. Call him!! Go!! Now!!

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

-  *Passing of a Brother*
-  *Master's Meesage*
-  *Lodge Events*
-  *Lodge Activity*
-  *Black & Blue*
-  *First Impressions*
-  *Chaplain's Corner*

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS FOR 2014

Date	Event	Date	Event
Mar 16	MM Degree Practice 6pm	Mar 28(?)	Bethel #6 Honor Masons Night
Mar 23	Black & Blue Ball (3:00 pm) (F&F)	Apr 29	District 12 Meeting
Mar 25	Special Comm. - Master Mason Degree		

(F&F) family and friends invited

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

In Service to Deity

As Masons we believe in a supreme being. We show our unfaltering belief in numerous ways, whether it be asking for the blessing of the deity before engaging in any important undertaking, the many symbols we use, or the values that we share. Upon becoming a Mason, one of the first symbolic tools we received was a 24-inch gauge, teaching us to divide our time between work, family, and service of Deity. But what does it mean to do God's work?

It could be as literal as volunteering at your place of worship, or as simple as conducting yourself in a manner that serves as a good example for others. It could be as bold as actively standing up for the weak, or fighting against bigotry, ignorance and oppression. It could be as subtle as offering a smile and words of encouragement to brighten someone's day. It could be as charitable as aiding those less fortunate. It could be teaching your values to others, ensuring they are passed on to another generation. The answer could be just about anything.

Perhaps the best answer to the question of what it means to do God's work comes from my own Trestleboard . . . "And what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?" (Micah 6:8)

Personally, I believe that serving God is anything, grand or small, that contributes to making the world a better place. Whether we realize it or not, we're likely already serving in some way, and there are opportunities for additional service all around us.

Bro. Matt Hancheck
Lodge Chaplain

"Make sure you are doing what God wants you to do – then do it with all your strength."
- Bro. George Washington



SWEETHEART'S
BRUNCH



THE MASTER'S MESSAGE

A Brother's Lesson

With the events of this past week, the column I had written for this month will have to wait for another time. This month I must focus for a moment on our loss of a great man, a great friend, and a great Mason. I have had the privilege to know 'Pa' Graeven longer than not. But that's a different story for a different time.

Over these many years I have always admired the special relationship Pa has...had with his family. While he always was shown the love and respect of his station, both father and grandfather, he transcended the paternal relationship and was a friend to his family. A closeness that went beyond a 'blood relationship', a special bond gained only through a very special friendship. Of special times spent together and joys shared. And through it all, he smiled with pride. He was proud of his family and they were proud of him.



No one expected the dread news on that Tuesday afternoon. It was surreal. Disbelief... followed by a deep sense of sorrow. We had lost a dear Brother. A very special Brother, whom we all cherished. And through the fog of that sorrow over the next few days, his last lesson came ever clear. I never saw Pa leave a family member without giving a hug and saying 'I love you.' Pa always let you know you were special, from a warm smile and hug, to a parting handshake or pat on the back, Pa made you feel special. He smiled and touched your heart. What a magnificent gift.

Through many lessons our craft teaches us of the uncertainty of human life, and of the ever present uncertainty of its continuance. Pa embodied this lesson. He lived every day to its fullest. He was always on the go, sharing his love with all he met along the way. With a youthful vigor he was always ready to lend a hand, outworking many of the younger Brethren as they tried to keep up. He loved his life and loved sharing it with everyone. There was no finer ambassador of our craft.

The presence of 100 Brethren at his Masonic Memorial Service and Funeral proved beyond any doubt just how special and beloved Pa was in our fraternity. We were not the only ones who knew about Pa. His 'secret' was widely known. Pa was a living example for all what it means to be a Mason.

So while the Master has left us, long before the designs on his trestleboard had been completed, let us all learn from the mastery of his work. Until we, too are called to join Pa in the Grand Lodge Eternal, live every day without regret. Let those you love know how special they are. Be a friend to all and help them along their way. Be an example. Do your best. And live your life full of Love.

Thank you, Pa. We miss you!

Thank you to Bro. Curt and Bro. Paul for a great Sweethearts Brunch. Thank you to all who joined us for this wonderful event. On March 25th we will be conferring the Master Mason Degree upon Brother Jake Harycki. Please come out and support Jake as he reaches the pinnacle of Freemasonry.

There are more great events coming up. So make your reservations and join us for the best fellowship found anywhere, right here at Damascus Lodge.

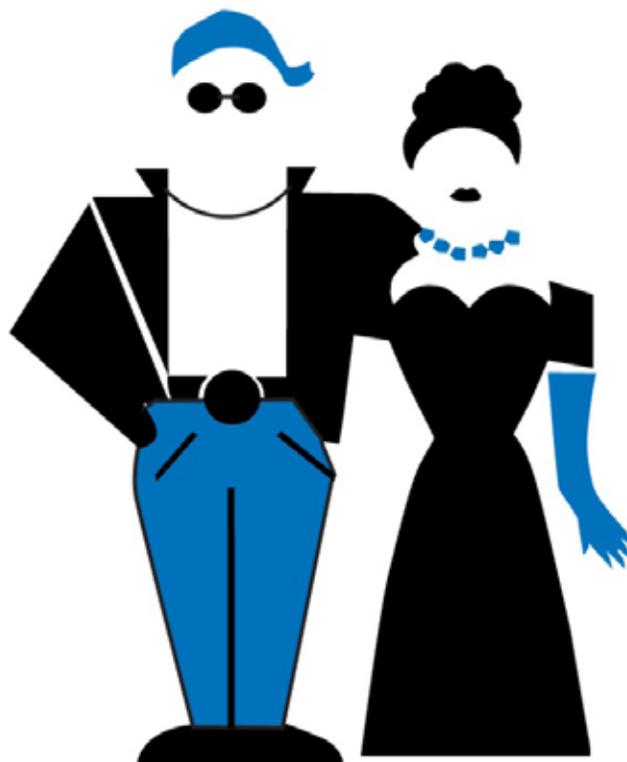
I hope see you at the Black and Blue Ball!

See you in Lodge,

Mick Olson,
Worshipful Master

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**

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A MASON

On the 26th of September, 2006, I had the good fortune to be raised a Master Mason. On the 25th of January this year I had the privilege to be Knighted in Ivanhoe Commandery No. 24, Knights Templar. My personal voyage across these past years has been life changing. By my other experiences over sixty- three years, my Masonic passage took me to a greater understanding of who I am. What I had accomplished was put into perspective. Who I could become was highlighted. What is truly important has been redefined.

My wife and daughters mentioned how my demeanor has mellowed as I followed the basic principles taught through the Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft and Master Mason degrees. When looking deep into what helped me, one idea kept recurring. Brotherhood, as defined by “Webster’s Dictionary” is; 1. The state of being related as brother or brothers, 2. An association or fellowship, such as a trade union, 3. All persons engaged in a particular profession, 4. The belief, feeling or hope that all people should regard and treat others as equal.

When I look back over the last seven years all, or part of all those definitions fit the explanation of how Damascus Lodge No. 290 has added to who I am at this point in my life. I have two blood brothers, but neither lives nearby. The Brothers from Lodge have been here to support and assist me through the changes of day to day life. There are brothers to talk with, others in whom you can confide, and still others who just raise your spirit when you are tired, or frustrated, or sometimes seem lost.

The second definition; “an association or fellowship, the coming together for like interests.” That fits Damascus like food fills our need for nourishment. Being part of something as dynamic and well respected as DL290 definitely caught that definition.

The third definition is fulfilled by all the outstanding Masons outside of Damascus, whom I have had the good fortune to meet! Both locally and as I have travelled. In the short history I have as a York Rite Mason, it amazes me how the “new kid” is openly accepted.

The last definition, “the belief, feeling or hope of equality” is part of how I now start every day. I look for the best in every person I have the privilege to meet. I try to be the type of man people want to share time with, share experiences from and get to know.

Hopefully, you can relate to my ramblings and feelings. Maybe you can find it enlightening. Brotherhood has to be maintained and nourished. Let us enjoy our time together as Brothers.

Bro. Don O’Kray, Junior Steward

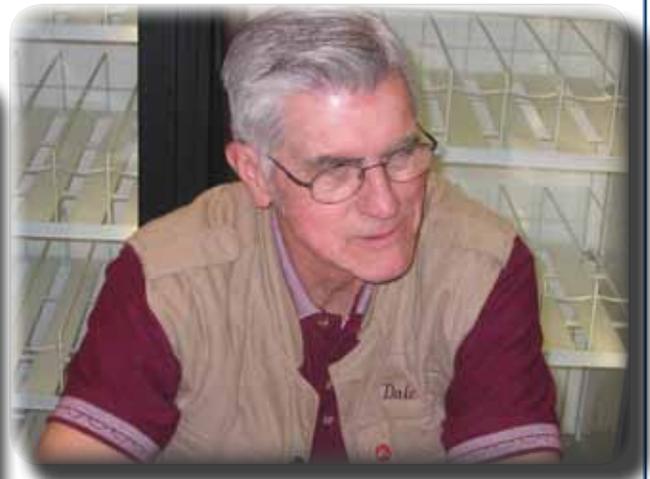
GREAT AMERICANS !

On February 25th about 30 members of Damascus and Lake Lodges gathered for an ‘All American’ night of fun. With a theme of ‘USA’, those attending were treated to a dinner of fried chicken, biscuits and all the trimmings. Dessert was provided by the daughters of Bethel No. 6, IOJD in conclusion of the Lodge Penny War. Dinner was great, but dessert was even better.

There was an American Masonic Trivia contest with Bro. Steve Kunda taking home the big prize. Instead of a pre-movie cartoon we watched a few short ‘clips’ poking fun at several members of both Lodges. Dave Schreier never looked better! Then it was time for the movie. Amid several incorrect guesses, the featured movie was ‘Captain America’. A fun movie that brought back youthful memories for many.

It was a great night of food, fun and fellowship. We thank WM Brad and our several guests from Lake Lodge for joining us for a traditional Damascus Lodge Movie Night. A couple more events and they just might make Lodge weight!

IN MEMORY OF A PASSED BROTHER



FIRST IMPRESSIONS

Due to a scheduling conflict, and with special permission from the Lodge, I was allowed the privilege of escorting not one, but TWO sweethearts to this year's Damascus Lodge Sweethearts' Brunch.

My mother-in-law-to-be had flown into town from Georgia to do some wedding dress shopping. That's another story for another day, but my mother-in-law's visit is very relevant to our craft, because this was her first face-to-face interaction with Freemasonry. Granted, the brunch is not a public event, but the profound impact that it had on her (and thus indirectly on me) is a great example of how our events can serve as our tool to show the community who we are and what we are all about.

To quote my mother-in-law directly as we were leaving the event: "Scott, I knew you were a Mason, and I knew it was a good group of guys. But to a mother about to give her daughter away, there is no greater reassurance than to see the amount of respect that you guys give to your wives, and that you make this much of an effort to treat them this well. Any group that promotes good family structure like this, I'm all for it!"

So, Brothers, thank you so much for using chocolate covered strawberries to earn me some brownie points with the in-laws. All this talk of sweets and pastries is making me hungry again, so I'm going to wrap it up...But in summary, this was a great example of how first impressions can make all the difference in the world. Freemasonry is going to be a part of my life for the next century (yes, I fully intend to live to be 130. I've eaten enough preservatives to make it happen...all part of my master plan). My wife will be a part of my life for just as long. So it was critical that she and her family get a good first impression of our craft, and we knocked it out of the park. Thanks, guys!

Bro. Scott Fairbanks, Junior Deacon

THE OLD MASTER'S WAGES

I met a dear old man today, who wore a Masonic pin,
It was old and faded like the man, it's edges were worn quite
thin.

I approached the park bench where he sat, to give the old
brother his due,
I said, "I see you've traveled east," He said, "I have. Have you?"

I said, "I have, and in my day, before the all-seeing sun,
I played in the rubble, with Jubala, Jubalo and Jubalum."

He shouted, "don't laugh at the work my son, it's good and
sweet and true,
And if you've traveled as you said, you should give these things
their due."

The word, the sign, the token, the sweet Masonic prayer,
The vow that all have taken, who've climbed the inner stair.

The wages of a Mason, are never paid in gold,
but the gain comes from contentment when you're weak and
growing old.

You see, I've carried my obligations, for almost fifty years,
It has helped me through the hardships and the failures full of
tears.

Now I'm losing my mind and body, death is near but I don't
despair,
I've lived my life upon the level, and I'm dying upon the square.

Sometimes the greatest lessons, are those that are learned anew,
And the old man in the park today, has changed my point of
view.

To all Masonic brothers, The only secret is to care,
May you live your life upon the level, may you part upon the
square



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

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

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.

2014 LODGE OFFICERS

Worshipful Master
Charles 'Mick' Olson, P.M. worshipful.master@dl290.org

Senior Warden
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Junior Warden
Nathan Butts junior.warden@dl290.org

Treasurer
Dale A. Graeven, P.M. treasurer@dl290.org

Secretary
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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.