



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

THE TRESTLEBOARD

Volume VI, Issue 4

April 2009



PUPPY LOVE

Mark your calendars and make your reservation NOW!! Sunday, May 17, 2009, Noon! You're invited to join the Damascus family for an afternoon of fun at Dairyland Greyhound Track. Best of all, it's FREE!

We'll be arriving at noon. Parking is Free! Then we'll enjoy a lunch buffet, for Free! Then you get Free admission to watch those cute little puppies chase that rascally rabbit all around the track. For Free! You are responsible for your own beverages and bets.

This event is open to all members and their ladies. Got a prospective member? Bring him and his lady along to enjoy some trademark Damascus Fun! Dress is casual. RSVP to Mick before May 1st. You won't want to miss this one!

PASS THE SUNTAN LOTION!

If you haven't uttered these words in the past few weeks, you weren't at the Damascus Lodge Luau. Thank you to all the members and families who came out to have a good time. We ate, drank and had fun in the sand.

Who would have believed coconut bowling could be so much fun? Did anyone believe the limbo pole could get that close to the ground? Did we really eat all that food? Just how big can you smile?

Whether playing games, enjoying each others company, or dressing up and acting just plain goofy, everyone had a great time! Check out some of the pictures to relive the memories of our tropical island adventure. Anyone wanting to get copies for Christmas cards just let us know!!

A special thanks to all those who helped set up, clean up, etc. Without your support, we could not have these fun events. Thank you!!

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! See the Lodge schedule for upcoming degrees.

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

-  *Puppy Power*
-  *Upcoming Degree's*
-  *Echo's from the West*
-  *Chaplain's Message*
-  *Master's Message*
-  *Upcoming Events*
-  *At the Right Hand*

INSIDE THIS ISSUE :

Echo's from the West	2
Master's Message	3
Birthdays	4
Lodge Officers	4
At the Right Hand	5
Lodge Events	6
Chaplain's Corner	6
Puppy Power	7
Luau Pictures	8

ECHO'S FROM THE WEST

Greetings Brethren,

This month we will turn to the South and then continue our educational journey through Masonic terminology.

South: When the sun is at his meridian height, his invigorating rays are darted from the South. When he rises in the East, we are called to labor; when he sets in the West, our daily toil is over; but when he reaches the south, the hour is high twelve, and we are summoned to refreshment.

Recommendation: The letter of every applicant for initiation must be recommended by at least one well-known brother, who should be, if possible, a member of the lodge, and vouched for by another. See Vouching.

Vouching: To vouch is to bear witness; vouching for a brother is, therefore, bearing witness that he is a true and trusty person. And no one can, of course give this testimony of a stranger's character, unless he has personally satisfied himself of his qualifications. A candidate's letter must be signed by two brethren, one of whom vouches for his possessing the necessary qualifications, moral, mental, and physical, and is, hence, called the voucher; and the other, upon this vouching, recommends him to the lodge; and no candidate, unless thus properly vouched for, can be suffered to enter upon the ceremonies of initiation.

Yours Fraternaly,
Larry Chadderdon
Senior Warden

2009 Upcoming Event Schedule

May 1	Milwaukee Iron Arena Football Game (Family)
May 17	Puppy Party (Spouses and Partners)
Jun 5&6	Grand Lodge
Jul 12	Mini Golf - Damascus Lodge Open (Friends & Family)
TBA	Jobie Baseball Game (Take ice cream)

"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

Masonry a Religion?



Worshipful Master
Mick Olson



Brethren,

Soon there will be another 'block buster' movie that will be telling the world about Masonry. Throughout the ages, many of those not yet brought to light have thought that Masonry is a religion. Or perhaps even a cult. Perhaps our ritual does give rise to some of the erroneous ideas as to our true meaning and purpose. Some raise question because of our use of certain symbols.

Masonry does use burning candles as symbols, as does witchcraft. As do most religions. Often incorrectly associated with Masonry, the pentagram is not a Masonic symbol. In ancient times the pentagram was used by Christians as a symbol of "the five wounds of Jesus" and was "believed to protect against witches and demons". For a time the pentagram was the official seal of the city of Jerusalem. It was not until the late twentieth century that it became associated with witchcraft.

Over time, symbols and even words change meaning. If I called my wife Phat, I'd be sleeping in the garage for a few months. But to the youth of today, it means she's really cool. Which, before the 1960's meant she was cold.

I am lucky to have Masonic heritage. I had role models in my life who were members of our craft. Even without them, we can cite many of our distinguished brothers: Harry Truman, Benjamin Franklin and George Washington. Would these great men have been part of something dark and corrupt?

Many of the major religions of our day use texts which contain passages, which, if taken out of context, may be misconstrued and twisted into meanings not originally intended. The crusades of the middle ages and the jihads of today show how religious zealots can denigrate their own religions in the pursuit of power.

But nowhere in Masonry can the same be said. Masonry is founded on the principle of all men, of all religions living together in peace and harmony, worshipping god according to his own heart. On our altar are the texts of all religions, because Masonry respects all religions, and all men. No, Masonry is not a religion. Masonry emphasizes the best tenets of all religions: brotherly love, relief and truth. Our motives are that simple. That pure.

Our craft is steeped in history. And often history is misunderstood. Sometimes accidentally. Sometimes deliberately. Sometimes to entertain or make a dollar. It is our duty to make sure that we set the example for those who are watching us. WE need to show the world the real truth about our craft.

See you in Lodge!

Mick Olson
Worshipful Master

2009 LODGE OFFICERS

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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.

John V. Schroder - 4/26/1968 - 40 years

Gerald A. Jordan, P.M. - 4/18/1975 - 33 years

Walter L. Ackley - 4/18/1979 - 29 years

Michael Meyer, P.M. - 4/5/1983 - 25 years

Chris Favero - 4/26/1999 - 9 years

J. Todd Roseman, 4/22/2003 - 5 years

Jeffrey J. Chadderdon, 4/3/2004 - 4 years

Larry L. Chadderdon, 4/3/2004 - 4 years

Jeffrey A. Jones - 4/3/2004 - 4 years

Daniel D. Lopez - 4/3/2004 - 4 years

Dennis D McNulty - 4/3/2004 - 4 years

Kenneth J. Starkman - 4/3/2004 - 4 years

Charles E. Tatge - 4/2/2005 - 3 years

Lloyd A. Wilson - 4/2/2005 - 3 years

"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)

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!"

Chris J. Mihás - 4/5

Eckhard Tetzlaff - 4/6

Charles J. Tatge - 4/23

Chris Favero - 4/26

AT THE RIGHT HAND

“And Call the Craft to Labor”

September 1973 saw the start of my senior year of high school. I was one of the precious lucky few who was eligible for Cooperative Education or as we knew it Co-Op and my first “real” job was at the local K-Mart as a shoe salesman. After a couple of months working at K-Mart, I had risen to the top of the sales chart amongst all Co-Op workers throughout the entire store. Alas, Mike Fairbanks had arrived and was top dog

One particularly slow day, my boss Mrs. Benson asked me to retrieve the Windex, squeegee, and a rag to wash the public facing windows. How could she? How dare she? What made her think it was ok to ask her top Co-Op salesman to wash windows? Didn't she read my job description? No where in my job description did it say I was required to wash windows. Washing windows was beneath a man of position.

As usual dad was waiting for me after work. In his usual patient and wise way, dad gave that sideways glance as we drove out of the K-Mart parking lot toward home and he asked what was wrong.

“It's that Mrs. Benson” I screeched in my 17 year old excited voice. “She thinks I'm some kind of window washer. Can you believe she had me washing windows, dad?” He asked if Mrs. Benson paid me for the time I spent washing the windows and I admitted that she had.

I am blessed with many lessons and provoking thoughts from my dad. Most of them have guided me through life. But, the lesson he taught next is one I have lived by and taught my own children.

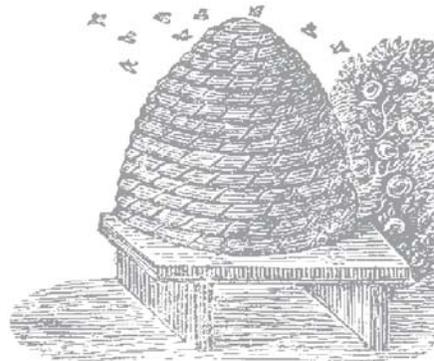
“Michael, when you agree to work for a man, you agree to perform your duty to the best of your ability. That man has agreed to pay you for your work. It doesn't matter what you do for him, he pays you and you work. If he gives you a broom – you sweep. It could one day mean the difference between your family going hungry and your family being fed.”

When the gavel sounds in the East, it is the Worshipful Master calling his craft to labor and by receiving the degrees of Freemasonry, we agree to work for; or as we know it in our craft, we agree to labor for the benefit and good of Freemasonry, the Grand Master, and our Worshipful Master.

It is refreshing and spirit renewing when I see Brothers working together. Long time Brothers with many years of Masonry behind them and newer Brethren working together by presenting milestone pins and certificates to a long time member of the Lodge, ringing bells for Salvation Army, presenting a scholarship to a young deserving student at a local high school or in the Lodge Center setting up, cleaning up after dinner, and taking trash out without complaint.

Just ask any Mason (go ahead and try my suggestion from last month), and they will tell you that Masonic labor never ends. It began with the advent of Freemasonry and as long as there are Masons, we will meet on the level and labor for the good of the craft and for the communities in which we live.

Michael Fairbanks
Senior Deacon



APRIL 2009

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

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		

•4/14 - Stated Meeting - 6pm Dinner, 7pm Lodge, 7:30pm FC Degree

•4/27 - Visitation to Excelsior for FC Degree, 6pm Dinner, 7pm Degree. Please RSVP WM Mick Olson.

•4/28 - Special Communication - 6pm Dinner, 7pm - Three EA Degrees

•5/1 - Milwaukee Iron Football Event

•5/12 - Stated Meeting - 6pm Dinner, 7pm Lodge

•5/17 - Puppy Party!!! - Noon. - See Page 7

•5/26 - Special Communication - 6pm Dinner, 7pm - Two EA Degrees

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Brethren,

The blessings of Deity to all of you. As one who has had time to think as I recently traveled from home to the East Coast and back, these feelings came to light. I thought they might have meaning to others besides just me.

By the time you see this in print, we will have had one fourth of this year pass us by. What did we accomplish with the days, hours and moments we were given to work with? Do we ever think these have been opportunities to expand our Masonic principles? Hopefully we have seen some of those principals in action as we interact with "Our Brothers" at lodge. Look thru the "Master's List": Friendship, Morality, Brotherly Love, Piety, Fidelity, Perseverance and Immortality.

Sometimes we feel there will always be time to get it done. But time isn't available to be picked up on the way home, like milk or a quick supper to go. There is no account to draw from, no Tyme machine to walk away from with some extra time to use. Why is it this last principle, Immortality, is the first we recognize as fleeting.

In its most simple terms, while we are out there thinking about it, we are losing it. So let all our actions make the best of this blessing. Let all our works praise the Grand Architect and follow the designs drawn on his trestle board.

Have another great Masonic month.

Rev. Don



Join Damascus Lodge as we
Party With
The Puppies!!

SUNDAY, MAY 17, 2009
12 NOON

 **Dairyland Greyhound Park**

FREE PARKING
FREE ADMISSION
FREE BUFFET

(Pay for your own beverages)

Join us for a fun filled afternoon of Food and Puppies!!

HOW MUCH ??

IT'S FREE !!



GREYHOUND



RSVP MICK BEFORE MAY 1ST



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THE REAL SECRET OF FREEMASONRY
-
MAKING GOOD MEN BETTER

LODGE TRUSTEES

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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.

DAMASCUS LODGE IS BACK FROM THE ISLANDS

