



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

# THE TRESTLEBOARD

Volume VII, Issue 4

April 2010



## WELCOME BRETHREN!!

A huge Damascus Welcome to new Brothers Brian Bertram, Pete Czechorski and Tom Tinney who were initiated on March 23, 2010. What a great homecoming!

This was the first 'official' event held at Lake Masonic Center since the vandalism in January. It's only been two months, but has seemed an eternity. The Lodge looks GREAT! There is no better homecoming celebration than the welcoming of new Brethren to our craft. It serves to remind us that the purpose of the Lodge is to build Master Masons. Congratulations to them and thanks to our degree team and many sideliners for a wonderful night of Masonic Brotherhood.

## FEVER BREAKS! OUTLOOK VERY GOOD!!

As winter seemed endless and spring seemed an eternity away, many of us noticed our legs began to twitch with nervous energy, hands were starting to sweat, and random thoughts of hopefulness and wishing for good weather flew through our minds. Fortunately, Dr.'s W.M. Larry and S.W. Lloyd recognized the symptoms of "Cabin Fever" and prescribed the cure.

What the doctors ordered was a day at West Allis Masonic Temple in West Allis with family, friends, and Brothers playing all manner of games. In true Damascus fashion food and soda filled the tables and was consumed in mass quantities. Many were the desserts, ranging from chips with dip to brownies; all finding homes in crowded tummies. Grazing through the desserts all afternoon was just as popular as the many games we played. Yes Martha, diets were blown and calories consumed in staggering proportions!

Thank you to all who brought dishes to pass, played games, and cleaned up afterwards. Never in the annals of Damascus Lodge No. 290 has there been a more competitive group of ringers. We won't mention any names but their initials are Miranda Campagna and Nathan Butts!! A great time was had by all.

## RAISING THE ROOF!

Wilmot Lodge's bi-annual 'Raise the Roof Ride' has been a resounding success. In October of 2009, Wilmot Lodge replaced and repaired the roof of their building. This bi-annual event continues with proceeds now supporting the 'Sharing Center' in Salem, Wisconsin to provide food and clothing for the Westosha area for those who are in need.

Brethren, we have supported this effort in the past and this is an opportunity to continue the great fellowship, consumption of great food, and aid a worthwhile cause. The first ride this year is July 17th. See Bro. Mike Fairbanks, JW for further information.

### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

-  *Upcoming Degrees*
-  *Cabin Fever*
-  *By the Plumb*
-  *Master's Message*
-  *Upcoming Events*
-  *Counselor's Corner*
-  *Miscellanea*

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE :

Lodge Calendar	2
Miscellanea	2
Ross Memorial	2
Master's Message	3
Lodge Officers	3
Brotherhood	4
Counselor's Corner	4
By the Plumb	5
Pie Eyed	6

# APRIL 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	<b>13</b>	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
25	26	<b>27</b>	28	29	30	

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- 4/13 - Stated Meeting 6pm Dinner, 7pm Lodge Opens
- 4/22- 4/24 - Scottish Rite Reunion - Valley of Milwaukee - See Scottish Rite Lodge Ambassador Bro. Sean.
- 4/27 - Social Meeting - 7pm - Lodge Visitation to Aurora Lodge for Entered Apprentice Degree
- 5/11 - Stated Meeting 6pm Dinner, 7pm Lodge Opens

## MISCELLANEA

This new column is dedicated to the miscellaneous fact, fiction, legend and lore of our craft. To fully understand who we are, we must remember from whence we came. We hope you enjoy this new feature of your Trestleboard.

### Moon Lodges

A century ago there were more than 3,000 Masonic Lodges which can be described as "Moon Lodges"; in 1954 there were fewer than 500. Moon Lodges met on the day of the full moon for practical reasons; the Brethren had light to travel by at night. There may also have been some symbolic meaning. The advent of electricity, street lights, and the automobile made the reason for meeting on such nights antiquated, though unique. Many Grand Lodge Jurisdictions now require lodges to meet on fixed days of the week.

Masons and full moons...leaving the door wide open for conspiracy theories.

## ROSS MEMORIAL HUGE SUCCESS!

On Friday March 12, Wisconsin Lodge No. 13 held their Annual Bob Ross Memorial Table Lodge. Four Brothers from Damascus attended the event with others showing their support. MWGM Craig S. Campbell was also present.

The guest speaker was Brother Jock Smith who regaled with a power point presentation of his travels to Scotland. Describing the differences and similarities of our brotherhood, he showed the differences in dress and informed all of 'their' larger attendance numbers and the "after lodge harmony". Our Scottish brothers' dress is a wee more elaborate than ours, with cuffs on their arms and sashes across their bodies. Also, they wear their aprons inside their jackets, as opposed to outside as we do. The "after lodge harmony" is fellowship in the pub.

Everyone feasted on a great meal and the hosts promised an all barbecue dinner next year. Although we did fail to uphold the reputation of Damascus (there was food left over at the end of the night) we can happily say no plates were harmed during this event.

A good time was had by all and we are looking forward to next year's event. Heed their warnings and dress casual next year, for it is bound to be a messy affair with all that barbecue!

## THE MASTER'S MESSAGE



Worshipful Master  
Larry Chadderdon

Brethren,

Welcome Home!

It is with great joy and happiness that I announce that the Lake Masonic Center is open for business again. In fact on the 23rd of March we put on 3 Entered Apprentice degrees. My personal welcome to our newest E.A.s. Brian Bertram, Pete Czechorski, and Tom Tinney.

Our Joy at being home is somewhat dimmed by the loss of one of our brothers. Brother Lenny Gruszecki died on March 4th. We will be remembering in at our April stated meeting on the 13th. On the 18th we will be having degree practice for the FC degree in our new positions. We will start practice after a brief officers meeting. Please be there at 5:00pm. Those interested in learning a part are welcome to attend.



Until next month brothers.  
Larry Chadderdon WM

## 2010 LODGE OFFICERS

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## BROTHERHOOD

**Brotherhood:** What exactly does that mean? Webster's boring dictionary definition explains it as: A fraternal or trade organization. All those engaged in a particular trade or profession or sharing a common interest or quality. The belief that all people should act with warmth and equality toward one another, regardless of differences in race, creed, nationality, etc. That actually...is a pretty good explanation, but I would also like to believe that Brotherhood, like pretty much everything else in Masonry, has a deeper meaning that needs to be discovered – particularly within one's self.

That belief is the reason I chose this topic, because it is something I have been struggling with personally and I was hoping that as I researched the topic further – as I added building blocks to “my house not made with hands” – that I would discover something inside myself that would help me resolve my issues, help me to be a better man, a better brother, or even help someone else that might be having the same difficulties.

What I personally discovered about the meaning of brotherhood is...acceptance. After reading several stories, one in particular about two Civil War soldiers – locked in the heat of battle one moment, then one suddenly thrust into caring for the other on his death bed the next – despite the color of the uniform; after the smoke finally cleared from their eyes, they accepted each other as brothers.

After reflecting about my wonderful times at the Lodge and thinking about one fellow lodge member especially, who likes to be called “Sugalump” or “Naked Irishman”; even though he's a goofy bugger, I still accept him as my brother. And after reminiscing through my own memories –how nervous I was asking permission to visit this very lodge, nervous because I was ‘originally’ made a mason differently than everyone else; but afterwards feeling more like I was returning home rather than visiting, because regardless how I was made a Mason, I was accepted as a brother.

My charge to myself is this: no matter what differences may lie between me and another brother– whether he smells like cigarettes, can explain how much centrifugal force it takes to travel through time, or drives a Hummer but needs a step stool to climb into it – I charge myself to embrace the differences instead of guarding against them. Who knows, I may faint and need the stinky smell of cigarette smoke to bring me back to consciousness, while riding safely to the hospital in a stylish Hummer. I still can't think of why I would need to know how much centrifugal force it takes to travel through time, but it's really cool I know a guy that does.

Brother Mathew Wright  
Senior Steward

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## COUNSELOR'S CORNER

We have new Brothers! Congratulations to our newest Brethren. We hope they will come back often and help to strengthen our Lodge as we continue to grow! Please seek out our new Brethren, welcome them and make them feel at home.

As these Brethren gain further light in our craft, we should be reminded of our journey through the degrees. I can't help but think back to my degrees every time I hear a new Brother being obligated. What a special night!

May we all be reminded of our Masonic obligations. Not only the obligations of our degrees, but those we took when we became officers and promised to do our best for our Lodge; or when we promised to support our officers and assist them as they served. Each of us has taken an obligation to do our best to help build and strengthen Damascus Lodge. If we all do our best, we can achieve wonderful things... Together!

See you in Lodge!

## BY THE PLUMB

### Travel into Foreign Lands

My last “At the Right Hand” article focused on my travels as a Master Mason in Ireland, and in this issue I will continue that focus as I now enter into the stages of planning for my annual visit with my Irish family this year.

I often find myself going through my journal and refreshing my memory of the many fine and wonderful Masons it was my honor to meet. The privilege of attending Lodge in beautiful buildings that are older than our Country and being in fellowship with our Irish Brethren while surrounded by the pictures and history of the Lodge is beyond description. It is only when you step into an Irish Lodge that you can fully appreciate our history as a worldwide Masonic Fraternity.

Our brothers in Ireland take Masonry very seriously. Dress is business; dark suit or dark matching slacks and jacket, shirt and tie, polished shoes, and white gloves. No one would ever enter into an open Lodge with anything less. To see an Irish 3rd (Master) degree conferred by Masons that have been in the Fraternity for 20, 30, 40 or 50 years and even longer is to see a conferral done to near perfection and “It doesn’t get any better than this!”

Want a history lesson in Masonry? Ask Brothers Ivan McCartney, Bob Arnott, Colin Garrity, or Francis Craig, whom you would most certainly meet should you ever visit a Lodge around Belfast. At least one of them is going to be in that Lodge. You will be awash and entranced with invaluable Masonic Knowledge and history.

Seeing the results of a Brother Mason’s hard labor is indeed refreshing and makes one proud to be a Mason. Arthur’s Square Masonic Center in Belfast City Center (downtown) is a prime example of a Masonic Labor of Love. The effort that Brother Ron Wilson put forth in the restoration of the building is really nothing short of Herculean. The before and after pictures are astonishing! Thank you to Brother Ron and all who worked with him for their effort on the showcase that is a true Masonic treasure, Arthur’s Square.

Of course when one travels to Ireland, the travels are not all work and no play. Giant’s Causeway, the Coast Road, the ever present view of Scotland over the Irish Sea, and trips around Lough Neigh and Strangford Lough are breathtaking! The legends and lore of Finn McCool abound throughout Ireland and the residents are not bashful about telling their versions of the Irish Giant that saved Ireland from most everything. My favorite is how Giant’s Causeway and Lough Neigh came to be at the hands of Finn. Ahnd eef ya be awake arrly enooogh, ye mightn be looky enuf ta meet oop with a Leprechaun.

This stroll through memory lane has sparked a bit of an idea, helped along with a wee suggestion from a near and dear brother of Damascus No. 290. Why just take my word for it? Why not give some thought to going across the pond with a Masonic agenda, take the wife and experience the “Cement of Brotherly Love” for yourself. It is my hope and prayer that some day I will make my annual visit to Ireland as Worshipful Master of Damascus Lodge No. 290. I would like to put together a wee contingent of interested Brethren to accompany me and represent not only our Lodge, but Wisconsin Masonry as a whole. Certainly, ‘tis something to think about.

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

Michael Fairbanks  
Junior Warden

In 1860 in Limerick, Ireland, there was found in a small chapel a stone dated 1517 with the following inscription:

“I will serve to live with love & care  
Upon the level, by the square.”



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*THE REAL SECRET OF FREEMASONRY*

*MAKING GOOD MEN BETTER*

## LODGE TRUSTEES

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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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## PIE EYED

Many thanks to the Job's Daughters of Bethel No. 6 for a great 'Honor Masons Night' on March 26th. It felt a bit strange seeing OUR girls meeting in George Washington 1776 Lodge. But then again, how can we keep something so cherished all to ourselves?

It was a great night and we enjoyed our girls more than ever. And of course...there was PIE! Not just any pie, THE PIE! What would an 'Honor Masons Night' be without a dessert auction? Damascus was pleased to once again take home THE PIE...okay, we ate it there...again. It's TRADITION! Thank you Daughters, for a wonderful night!

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## NEWEST ENTERED APPRENTICES

