



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

THE TRESTLEBOARD

Volume VIII, Issue 4

April 2011



FEVER BREAKS OUT! RELAX... IT'S JUST THE BBQ SPICES!!

As we wrapped up a long winter and spring seemed just around the corner, many of us noticed our legs twitching with nervous energy, hands were starting to sweat, and random thoughts of good weather clouded our minds. Fortunately, there was an excellent opportunity to work out those twitches and clear our minds.

The Damascus Hoedown was the place we wanted to be, so we loaded up the truck and went to DL 2-90. In true Damascus fashion, food and soda filled the tables and was consumed in staggering quantities. At the 'DL Corral', BBQ fresh off the grill left sauce clean up to our elbows. Grazing through the desserts all afternoon had us all loosening our gun belts. Diets were blown and calories consumed in massive proportions! What a great time!

The weather was cool, but the hospitality was Red Hot! Thank you to all who helped cook, danced, played games, and cleaned up afterwards. Never in the annals of Damascus Lodge No. 290 has there been a wackier group of Cowpokes and Cowgals! A great time was had by all.

WELCOME BROTHER!!

A huge Damascus Welcome to new Brother Lou Bennett who was initiated on March 2nd. We're glad to have you with us! Thanks to our degree team and many sideliners for a wonderful night of Masonic Brotherhood.

We also have three new petitions with interviews under way. Brother Derrick Zolinski had a fine EA Examination and will be passed to the degree of Fellowcraft on April 12th. So we have much work to do in the Lodge and we are counting on everyone's support to make these degrees special for our candidates. Come out and show your support!

BY-LAWS CHANGE NOTICE

At the Stated Communication in April proposals will be submitted to amend the Lodge by-laws. The discussion of these several proposals will commence at the Stated Communication in May and may continue during the Stated Communication in June. Once the proposals have been discussed, there will be a vote on their adoption.

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

-  *Event Photos*
-  *Master's Message*
-  *Upcoming Events*
-  *Upcoming Degree Work*
-  *Chaplain's Pew*
-  *ByLaws Changes*

April 2011						
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

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- 4/12 - Stated Meeting - 6pm Dinner, 7pm Lodge - FellowCraft Degree
- 4/17 - Feast of Paschal Lamb - 3pm - Scottish Rite - Open to Public - Remembrance of Brothers who have passed
- 4/26 - Lodge Meeting - 6pm Dinner, 7pm Lodge Entered Apprentice Degree

APPLE OF MY PIE

Many thanks to the Job's Daughters of Bethel No. 6 for a great 'Honor Masons Night' on March 11th. It all started with a great meal. Honored Queen Samantha ran a great meeting, getting us out in plenty of time to eat dessert! Then there were Pirates.

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... It's TRADITION! Thank you Daughters, for a 'swashbuckling good time'! We'll be back!

YOU COULD HAVE HEARD A PIN DROP

A Bowling Pin that is! Thanks to the Jobies of Bethel No. 6 for inviting us out to bowl with them on March 6th. Tension filled the alleys as the competition drew tight. Who would win the bragging rights as best bowler? Would it be the Masons? Would it be the Jobies? How about the DeMolay boys?

Who won? There seems to be disagreement there. Some insist you count pins knocked down. But I know the Masons had the most Gutter Balls, just ask Bro. Sean. Clearly the winners and still champions, the Jobies!! Thanks for a great day, Girls!

TRAVELING MEN

We're up to our old tricks again! Several of our Officers and Brothers have taken to the highways and byways, visiting and supporting our sister Lodges. We had the privilege of attending the raising of three Master Masons at three different Lodges. We even got to help out by filling some parts. Come out and join us as we continue to invade other lodges and pilfer such items as 'Traveling Gavels', and fly the DL290 flag!

Lodge Visitations afford us the opportunity to support other Lodges and their candidates. We form strong fraternal bonds with our Brethren and learn from each other. It's exactly what our craft was meant to be. There's always room for you to come along!

THE MASTER'S MESSAGE

“The Badge of a Mason”



A badge comes in many forms and shapes. Badges are symbols of a position or accomplishment. A police officer's badge identifies the wearer as a person who has authority to enforce the laws that we, as a society live by. A firefighter's badge identifies the wearer as a person who has authority to take charge of fire and rescue operations. The flash or badge that is affixed on the front of a Special Forces Green Beret identifies that person as one who has gone through the rigors of the military training necessary to earn the honor of being called a "Green Beret".

We as Free and Accepted Masons also have a badge that we wear with pride and honor. It is the lamb-skin or white leathern apron. It is a confirmation that we have been initiated an Entered Apprentice, passed to the Degree of Fellowcraft, and then Raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason. It is a sign of the work and dedication we have invested to learn about this world wide fraternity that we call Freemasonry.

But our aprons stand for more than the work it takes to receive it. We receive our aprons early in our Masonic Journey and as with our law enforcement officers, firefighters, and military officers we must constantly and continually work to earn the distinction and respect that comes with a Mason's Apron. In short, earning the honor and respect to wear our Badge is ever ongoing.

This means that we must be ever on our guard against dishonorable words and actions. We must be careful how we are perceived in public and we do this by not cursing on the highway at other drivers, controlling our tempers around our family members, and perhaps carefully wording what we write on our blogs and the internet.

We must be ready to help or render aid to any person who needs it, especially if that person is a member of a Masonic Family. That is our obligation to society and to each other as Masons. Should we not be on our constant guard and then commit a dishonorable action, or should we fail to help someone in need, then we will have stained; even dishonored our badge.

Let's always remember and ever keep in our minds that Masonry is more than meeting at lodge, or planning and attending fun events. Brotherly love, charity, relief, truth, and honor, are but a few of the tenets that our Trestleboard; the Holy Writings teach us to practice as Masons.

When it is time for us to arrive at that house not made with hands, let us have practiced the beauties of brotherly love, relief, and truth; arriving at the door with our apron, or rather our badge, unstained.

Be there AND be square

Bro. Michael L. Fairbanks
Worshipful Master

THE CHAPLAIN'S PEW



A Masons Mother

Well, a new chapter has started in my life. It's just Me, Sheryl, Meg, and my siblings. Being a Mason has brought a new light to this chapter. There was an abundance of support from my many fraternal Brothers, for me and my family, during these trying times. A phone call, email, handshake, hug or "how are things?" showed what Masonic Life is all about. True brotherly love. Offers of assistance towards an emotionally distressed brother showed true, and during the last year, have assisted us in the acceptance of the passing of Mom.

Although I don't know too many Ministers that drive a Miata, or Pipers that come out in 20 degree weather wearing a kilt, they were all there for us. They are my Masonic Brothers. My friends; and over the last few months, my sanity. Being a Brother is so much more than attending meetings, having dinner and conversation; it is a way of life. At the dinner after the funeral I addressed many friends and family in the benediction before the meal. I was wearing my Masonic pin on my suit jacket. W.M. Fairbanks was right when he told our new EA that Masons are recognized as people with compassion, integrity, and true morals.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank ALL of my Masonic Brothers and their families, Damascus Lodge and others, local and statewide, for their condolences and support. My entire family truly has noticed the fraternal brotherhood.

I do know now that I can devote more time and energy to Lodge. Thank you all for being there. Now I can be there more often for you.

You can only have one mother, Patient kind and true;
 No other friend in the entire world, Will be the same to you.
 When other friends forsake you, to mother you will return,
 For all her loving kindness, She asks nothing in return.
 As we look upon her picture, Sweet memories we recall,
 of a face so full of sunshine, and a smile for one and all.
 Sweet Jesus, take this message, To our dear mother up above;
 Tell her how we miss her, And give her all our love.....

An Irish Mother's Funeral Prayer.

Bro. Bert
 Chaplain

RECENT LODGE PHOTOS



ON THE LEVEL

This month's article again refers back to the question, "How do we meet?", with the obvious answer being, "On the Level"; but to the novice observer, this may bring about more questions than answering the original question. For instance, someone new to Masonry may ask, "So which level are you?" and/or "How many levels are there?" You might laugh, but I've actually heard those questions myself. As a matter of fact, those questions were also followed up with, "Are there 32 levels? Is that what that the "32" means? Which level are the Shriners on? How many levels would I have to go through to be the Grand Poobah? Is the RAM associated with that goat everyone keeps telling me about?" There are more, but those are the classics I've been exposed to.

Addressing our newly made Masons, you may have pondered some of these questions yourself. If you have, I need to clarify something for you, the Scottish Rite, the York Rite, the Ancient Arabic Order, Nobles of the Mystic Shrine (also known as, the Shriners), the Order of Eastern Star, and many, many, many other organizations are considered Appendant Bodies – not levels of Masonry. As a Master Mason, you have achieved the highest attainable degree in Freemasonry. You may join any of the Appendant Bodies, and you are then addressed according to that body. For instance, if you join the Scottish Rite, you are considered a 32 degree Scottish Rite Mason. If you continue through the York Rite, you will have many titles, among them Royal Arch Mason. The Shrine, a Shriner; and so forth.

That being said, one of the questions asked above is the reason I wrote this article. "How many levels are there?" If you think about it, there are MANY levels of Freemasonry for the newly made Mason. Whether it's to make new friends, to join our great craft for its philanthropic work, or to be the next "Grand Poobah", the best thing about our wonderful fraternity is that it has something for everyone. Through my years I've seen men join the Masonry simply because one of their friends had joined, so then they wanted to join as well. I've seen men join so they can become a member of one of the Appendant Bodies. I've even seen men join because their son or daughter has had so much fun in one of the youth groups associated with Masonry that they themselves wanted to be part of all the fun. My favorite however, is the Brother who joins for....let's say the reasons I stated previously, however, once they became a member, they began to discover all of the rich history and research associated with Masonry. That's right, I said "research"; mysteries that remain unsolved, puzzles that need to be put together, codes that need to be broken....ooohhhh! The opportunities for the newly made Master Mason are bountiful. How deep, or to which level you want to take your Masonic journey is completely up to you.

I'll close by addressing the other question, and if you are ever asked, "So which level are you?", if you want, you can simply reply like I do, "We all meet on the same level, on the level of 'Brothers'. No one more, no one less."

Brother Matt Wright
Senior Warden





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THE REAL SECRET OF FREEMASONRY

MAKING GOOD MEN BETTER

LODGE TRUSTEES

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SICK AND VISITATION CHAIRPERSON

Mathew Wright 414-254-5677

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.

2011 LODGE OFFICERS

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