



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

THE TRESTLEBOARD

Volume IX, Issue 4

April 2012



FIRE UP THE GRILL

Where did Spring go? Summer said, "Step aside Spring, I'm ready to party – now!" And you know what? Damascus Lodge will be following right along. If you're also ready to party, have a great time with friends and family, and eat till you're stuffed to the gills; then grab your favorite plaid shirt and come on down to Lake Masonic Center for the Damascus Hoedown on Sunday, April 29th! We will be having music, games for the kids, opportunities to take silly pictures with your brothers – loads of fun. Don't miss it. The fee will be the same as last year, \$5 for Adults and youngins' are free. Make your reservations with Cookie – a.k.a. Steve Manthey – (262) 278-2723 or email him at celticphoenix78@yahoo.com. Get your reservations into Steve before April 20th.

MASONIC SERVICE ASSOCIATION

We would like to send a special "Thank You!" to Worshipful Brother Charles "Chuck" Wallen from the Masonic Service Association. Worshipful Brother Chuck gave a very informative speech about a special organization close to his heart and ours. The brave men and women of this county have been defending freedom for several decades and the Masonic Service Association has been helping to take care of those who have borne the battle. Whether it's giving veterans a ride to a healthcare facility, delivery books or other needed sundries around the hospital, playing cards with a lonely veteran in his room or simply saying "Hello friend, how can I help you?" when a veteran first enters a VA medical center; the Masonic Service Association is there – in every state, through every war and even after acts of God. If you or any one you know is interested in joining this wonderful organization, do not hesitate to give Chuck a call at (414) 384-2000 and ask for the Masonic Service Association.

THE PERFECT STORM

There's a perfect storm brewing and it's predicted to hit May 29th at 7pm at the Lake Masonic Center and you should be prepared...to come and enjoy the fun. Sure, it's a little presumptuous to predict a storm this far out, but this storm has even been given a name – The Knife and Fork degree. Here's the forecast for the evening: Warm delicious food will be coming out of the kitchen in the East, which will collide with the cold front coming out of the West originating from the Brothers of Damascus - who are always calm, cool and collected; and Worshipful Brother Mick will be...well, he'll be where ever it is safe, to help direct the proceedings of the fun filled Knife and Fork degree. When all of these systems – aka Brothers – clash in the middle, it is sure to be night you will never forget. The fee for the Knife and Fork degree is \$25. Some of you (bacon wrapped tenderloins) may think that (bacon wrapped tenderloins) is a little steep (bacon wrapped tenderloins) for a meal, and to those people I say (bacon wrapped tenderloins), it's definitely worth it! Send your reservations to Mick Olson, mick290@att.net or 414-397-3076 before May 15th.

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

-  *Hoe Down*
-  *Master's Message*
-  *Upcoming Events*
-  *Counselor's Corner*
-  *Knife & Fork*
-  *By the Plumb*

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

April 1st – Milwaukee Valley of Scottish Rite Feast of the Pascal Lamb - 3pm

April 10th – Damascus Stated Meeting – Dinner starts at 6pm. Masters Board at 6:45pm. Have your interviews done.

April 15th – Don't forget your taxes!!!

April 24th – Damascus Special Meeting/ Social Night – Dinner starts at 6pm

April 26th – All-you-can eat spaghetti dinner at Lake Masonic Center – 5:00 to 7:00pm

April 29th – Damascus Hoedown – Lake Masonic Center – 3pm.

April 30th – District 12 Spring Meeting

MASONIC MILESTONES

John V. Schroder – 44 years

Michael B. Meyer – 29 years

J. Todd Roseman – 8 years

Dennis McNulty – 8 years

Charles E. Tatge – 7 years

Gerald A. Jordan – 37 years

Christopher Favero – 13 years

Larry Chadderdon – 8 years

Lloyd Wilson – 7 years

Eric A. Cobb – 4 years

Congratulations Brothers!!!!

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

“Are you a traveling man?”

When it comes to traveling to other Masonic Lodges or Jurisdictions, we always look forward to making that trip. It's an opportunity for us to meet Brethren we have not yet met. It's an opportunity to make new friends, and enjoy just a few tenants of our craft, “brotherly love and friendship” being in the forefront. It's a good feeling to travel to another Lodge and be welcomed; not as strangers or traveling brothers, but welcomed as a member of that Lodge.

There are some differences between our jurisdictions as far as ritual and activities are concerned, but as V.W. Bro. Francis Craig pointed out during his visit to our Lodge in April 2011, “There are many paths and roads on this journey through Masonry, but the goals and destination are the same”. No matter where one attends Lodge, you will never be lost or out of place because for as much as certain ritual and wordings are different, the content and meaning of every section of opening and closing Lodge, and every section of our degrees are identical. In other words, the “goal and destination” is the same.

As we do in America, we in Ireland greet each other with a smile, a hand shake, a hug, a few jabs about looking healthy and bigger, and perhaps even a joke or two. There is always good and constructive conversation that might include Lodge business, a brother or family in need, or Ireland's latest rugby, football (soccer), or cricket conquest. As we practice in America, so we practice the avoidance of politics and religion in Ireland. Meals at Lodge on meeting nights are fit for a Damascus man and yes, potatoes just like mum made; are defiantly part of the meal.

Since my raising to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason, I have had the awesome and wonderful privilege of traveling to Ireland and while there sit multiple Lodges with my cousin for the past three years. Among them: Craigantlet Friendship #486, Harlandic #989 , Bloomfield #543, St. Patricks #77 Newry, Temple #51 and the Provincial Grand Lodge of Down.

All Lodges have accepted me as a brother and more than that, as one of their members. I have been included in all activities and have had the honor of participating in all three degrees in one form or another.

This past February, Temple #51 invited me to be in attendance for their Master's installation and to play my bagpipes at the festive board and pipe the new Master to his chair. I used to think how wonderful it would be to just be able to say I have played in mum's home of Ireland, but the honor of bringing a new Master in under the tunes of my bagpipes is indescribable. *See Page 6*

THE MASTER'S MESSAGE



Brothers, once again I would like to talk about something I struggle with each and every day. I hope you'll pardon me, the last time I wrote about one of my continuous struggles it was on the subject of patience and the great efforts I put forth to keep it. This time I would like to talk about my struggle with balance.

I did some research and there is very little Masonic reference given to the scales; and I certainly couldn't find the scales as a Masonic symbol. This baffles my mind, because I know **MANY** (that word is capitalized, bolded and underlined on purpose!) brothers who struggle with balance. I definitely struggle to balance my Masonic duties as Master with the duties I owe to my employer, my wife, the rest of my family and everything else important to me. For instance, January and February this year were very busy and I'll be honest, my work at the VA slipped a little – thus one side of my scale was filled with too many Masonic activities. However, this month was not as busy concerning Masonry and because of that I worked very hard to catch up with my daily work. This of course diverted my attention from the necessary things I need to do as Master of Lodge, tipping the scales the other way.

I have heard many brothers talk about spending too much time with Lodge activities which makes their wives or loved ones feel time is being taken away from them. This only increases as a brother joins more and more appendant bodies – thus the term given to many Masonic wives - “Masonic widow”. Please do not misunderstand, I'm not bashing the outstanding appendant bodies of Masonry or the wonderful activities of the Lodge in any way; I'm simple stating that a brother has to be an artist at keeping it all balanced.

The one Masonic reference to the scales is of course to the Goddess of Justice. The beautiful blind-folded Goddess with scales in one hand and a sword in the other symbolizing truth and justice. The University of Washington School of Law informs us that the name of the beautiful Goddess of Justice is Ma'at. The name was originated in ancient Egypt and the term magistrate is derived from that name. It is said that she assisted Osiris in the judgment of the dead by weighing their hearts. The next time I'm in the market to buy another ring, I think I will look for one with a scale on it. Like the square, compasses and the letter G on my other ring which remind me of my Masonic teachings; the scale is a perfect visual measure to be ever cognizant of keeping my life in balance and it will remind me to make every effort of corrective action when the scale is tipped more to one side.

I wish all of you the best of luck at keeping your own life in balance. If the scale of your life happens to sway one way more than the other, you must never forget one the best things about Masonry – whatever struggles you may have, you are never alone, you always have your brothers with you.

Matt Wright
Worshipful Master



WANTED



GUYS, GALS AND FAMILIES

FOR THE

DAMASCUS

HOEDOWN!

WHEN: APRIL 29TH, 2012

WHERE: LAKE MASONIC CENTER, 1235 E. HOWARD AVE.

WHAT: A RIP ROARIN', HOG SNORTIN', FUN LOVIN' GOOD TIME!!

HOW MUCH: \$5 FOR ADULTS, YOUNGINS' IS FREE!!!

WHY?: WHY NOT?!?

REWARD

A FULL BELLY, GOOD TIMES AND A DAY FULL OF FUN

BY THE PLUMB

March was busy for our youth organizations. Job's Daughters Bethel #6 held their Honor Masonic Bodies event at their March 9th meeting. Doric Chapter of DeMolay conferred the DeMolay Degree a week later at their March 15th meeting.

The Jobies of Bethel #6 has an Honor Masons Night every term, but this time, Honored Queen Caitlyn Cigale decided to include all Masonic bodies and have an Honor Masonic Bodies Night. It was a great time with many Masons from many Lodges in attendance and the girls did an excellent job as hostesses in welcoming all the Masonic bodies that showed up that evening. As always, a few fortunate Masons were able to sit with the Jobies on the Lodge floor. All Masons were presented with a token of esteem by the Honored Queen, which immediately brought about light saber fights when the lights went down for Jr. Princess Tyler Fons' power point presentation on Mom Mick. If you give a guy a light saber, you have to expect him to have a light saber fight, right? All in all it was a fun night and no Jobies were harmed or knocked off their chair.

The following week during Doric Chapter's stated meeting, the DeMolay Degree was conferred on eight fine young men. Six of the gentlemen were from Doric Chapter and one each from West Bend and Racine Chapters. The young men of Doric Chapter did an outstanding job of conferring the DeMolay degree. If these gentlemen decide to move on to Masonry, the Lodge in which they choose to become members will be receiving some mighty fine ritualists. This meeting was also well attended by several Masons from many different Lodges. It was awesome to see such strong support with West Allis Lodge being over half filled with Masons, parents and DeMolay. After the meeting, Chapter Sweetheart Samantha Campagna dished out some delicious green refreshments. I was a little leery about it at first, but she assured me that everything was green due to St. Patrick's Day and not because of mold. During a past meeting it was mentioned that Sam was a better cook than her father, and after tasting some of the refreshments she made and served up for everyone that night, I can see that definitely being possible.

Brethren, in going to these youth organizations' meetings, I find it very refreshing to see youth that are so polite, courteous and well mannered. You hear so much in the news these days about the troubled youth in our country, but in these organizations you will find youth who are confident, respecting of their parents and of sound leadership material. Our support for these organizations helps them continue to build leaders of tomorrow. Job's Daughters Bethel #6 meets at Lake Lodge every second and fourth Friday. Doric Chapter of DeMolay meets every first and third Thursday at West Allis Masonic Temple. Stop down one day soon and see for yourself the fine young men and women that are soon to be leaders in our communities. They will be happy to see you.

Bro. Tom Stachowiak
Junior Warden

HELP THE LODGE SAVE A TREE AND MONEY

Help the Lodge save money and a tree or two, by receiving the Lodge TrestleBoard electronically, aka email. If you receive the TrestleBoard via the US Postal Service, the Lodge does not currently have your email address on file. If you wish to receive the TrestleBoard via email, please contact Bro. Secretary Michael Meyer, PM at secretary@dl290.org and give him your email address. Also if you have updated contact information, please past that along to Brother Secretary too. Help us stay in contact with you.

COUNSELOR'S CORNER CONTINUED..

Thank you to Temple 51 for allowing that privilege as that will be with me for the rest of my life.

The Brethren of Temple #51 surprised me with a bible presentation. V.W. Bro. McQuiston of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Antrim made the presentation and did so flawlessly. His execution and delivery was perfect in every way.

Congratulations to W.M. Jon on his ascension into the East, and to Bros. Nick Harrison, , David Heatherington, and all of the officers of Temple #51 who have been promoted or have elected to stay in their current chairs. There is no doubt that Temple #51 will continue to flourish and grow under your leadership.

I also had the honor of attending the officer installation of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Down, Ireland. Having traveled from America to be in attendance, The Provincial Grand Lodge of Down saw fit to place reserved seating right on the floor of Grand Lodge. All VIPS were introduced at the opening of Grand Lodge, however, Provincial Grand Master Gray introduced me individually and gave Grand Honors.

From the opening of Grand Lodge, through the installation ceremony, and closing, the ritual was perfect and flawless. The dedication and hard work each member of the installing team could not have been more evident as they moved about the Lodge performing their duties.

When I attended Lodge in Ireland for the first time as a Master Mason, I was asked how long I was on holiday. On my second visit, I was asked how long was I over for. This year, I was asked "How long are you HOME?". Indeed, I was home in the land of my ancestry, I was home with my family, but more than that I was home with my Brethren in Lodge.

Brethren, should a chance arise for you to travel to Ireland particularly Northern Ireland; go. Make a point to visit any Lodge and I promise you will have the Masonic experience of a lifetime.

Pictured Standing: W. Bro. Terence Luney Lodge 486 , W. Bro. Ian Houston Lodge 486, V.W. Bro. Colin McGarry Provincial Grand Lodge of Down, V.W. Bro. Francis Craig Provincial Grand Lodge of Down, V.W. Ted Hayes Provincial Grand Lodge of Down, Bro. Matt Robson.

Pictured Seating: W. Bro. Michael Fairbanks Damascus Lodge #290, Bro. George Best Craigtlet #486, W.Bro. Jonathon Collinson, W.Bro. Steven McConnell. All in this photo are members of Craigtlet Masonic Lodge of Friendship. All Came on the day to support V. Wo. Bro. Francis Craig...



Damascus Lodge No. 290

(Being Uniquely Qualified)

Announces the Conferral of The Knife and Fork Degree



7:00pm May 29, 2012

Lake Masonic Center

\$25.00 per person

Le' Menu

Ze Bacon Wrapped Filet vis all de trimmin's,
Dezzert, und beverages (Including 'Bovine Wine').

RSVP Mick Olson at mick290@att.net or 414-397-3076 before May 14th.

Proceeds to 'Sheila Cares' Fund.



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

Mick Olson, P.M. (2012) 414-397-3076
Dale A. Graeven, P.M. (2013) 414-764-8187
Patrick J. Militzer, P.M. (2014) 414-469-9804

SICK AND VISITATION CHAIRPERSON

Sean Schult 414-469-0305

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.

2012 LODGE OFFICERS

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Junior Steward Paul Peacock
Tiler Dale R. Graeven, P.M.

Senior Deacon Steve Manthey
Senior Steward Jason Williams
Counselor Michael Fairbanks, P.M.