



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

THE TRESTLEBOARD

Volume XI, Issue IV

April 2014



CONGRATS, BROTHER JAKE!!

On March 25th the Damascus Officers and ritualistic team had the pleasure to raise Brother Jake Harycki to the sublime degree of Master Mason. The degree was very well attended with several guests coming to be a part of Bro. Jake's 'big night'. After a fine dinner we retired to the Lodge Room and conferred the degree. Jake was duly impressed and enjoyed the evening, as did we all. We look forward to Brother Jake's involvement and welcome him to Damascus Lodge.

Congratulations are also extended to our Officer Corps for conferring an excellent degree. Everyone was in their new stations for the first time and did a fabulous job. You guys did our Lodge proud!

Tune in next month, April 22nd when we will be conferring two Fellow Craft Degrees. We hope you can join us and support our candidates as they advance in Masonry. Your presence shows them they joined the right fraternity, and the right Lodge.

BIKERS BASH?

On March 23rd Lake Masonic Center was invaded by a gnarly group of bikers known as the Angry Muffins. Never before has a more intimidating group of rif-raff descended on such hallowed ground. Harley Tattoos were everywhere and no morsel of food was safe. These guys were serious...and that was just the kids!

We hope you joined us for the first ever Damascus Lodge Black and Blue Ball. But if you didn't... well, you missed out on a whole lot of fun! Great food was in abundance, laughter was everywhere, and smiles were worn on every face as our Damascus family gathered to celebrate the beginning of Spring by dreaming of motorcycles.

We had excellent attendance, including nine kids under ten years old. It is great watching the kids and knowing that someday, they will likely follow in their father's footsteps and become active in Masonry. It is wonderful that we have young families involved and they want to be active in the life of our Lodge. We hope everyone had a great time and enjoyed the day as much as we did. What a great family we have!

Next family event... Mini Golf on June 1st! Save the date and watch for details in the next trestleboard.

FORK IT!

Save the date: June 1, 2014, 7:00pm. Location: Lake Masonic Center: Reason: The best darned dinner you'll ever have! Come, join us for our third annual Knife and Fork Degree. Enjoy a night of great food and even better fellowship as we introduce our Brethren to a proper, Damascus style dinner. This event is open to all Masons of all degrees. See the flier in this issue and make your reservation today. Bring all your friends! Both of them!

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

-  *Black & Blue Pictures*
-  *Master's Meesage*
-  *A New Master Mason*
-  *Knife & Fork*
-  *Like Us*
-  *DL Mini Golf Open*
-  *Chaplain's Corner*

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS FOR 2014

Date	Event	Date	Event
Apr 8	Stated Meeting 6pm -Dinner 7pm Lodge	Apr 29	District 12 Meeting
Apr 14-22	Passover	May 27	Special Comm - Entered Apprentice Degree
Apr 20	Easter	Jun 1	DL 290 Mini Golf Open (F&F)
Apr 22	Special Comm. - 2 Fellowcraft Degrees	Jun 30	Knife and Fork Degree !!!

(F&F) family and friends invited

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER: "SEEING THE MASTER'S PLAN"

From time to time, we all get those viral spam e-mails circulating a clever or interesting story. I rarely bother to open them, much less take the time to read them. However, I recently stumbled upon a story in one that I felt compelled to share:

A lone survivor of a shipwreck washed ashore on a small, deserted island. He prayed for God to rescue him, and watched the horizon for help. Eventually, he grew discouraged by the apparent lack of an answer to his prayers, and built a shelter out of driftwood. Several days passed without any sign of rescue.

One day, after scavenging for food, he returned to find his hut in flames, with smoke rolling up to the sky. All was lost. He screamed to the heavens, "God! How could you do this to me?"

Early the next day, he was awakened by the sound of a ship approaching the island to rescue him. When the man asked his rescuers how they found him, they replied "We saw your smoke signal".

I doubt it's a true story, and it's probably cluttered several of our spam filters and inboxes in some form or another. But as I thought about it (a moment before clicking "delete"), a few things struck me. There are events in all of our lives that can shake our faith, and cause us to question whether God has a plan for us. He does! We refer to him as the "Supreme Architect of the Universe" for a reason. He draws plans for us all, even if at times we lack the perspective to see or understand them. Second, even His best laid plans are useless if we just sit around waiting for Him to do everything for us. As His laborers, we still need to do the work. Finally, once we start doing the work, there are rescuers all around us willing and able to aid the poor, distressed, and worthy.

Bro. Matt Hanchek
Lodge Chaplain

HAPPY EASTER AND PASSOVER

While Masonry does not favor any religion, we are all religious men. So we take this opportunity to extend our sincere wishes for a very happy Holiday. Whether you celebrate Passover, Easter, or another, may the religious holiday be spent with those you love, and may you all enjoy the blessings of the Supreme Architect of the Universe. So mote it be.



Coming Sunday

June 1, 2014

2:00 P.M.

Save the date and
watch for further details!



April, already?! That means Q1, or 'first quarter' is in the books. I don't know about you, but trapped in the icy cloak of a winter that won't quit, I didn't realize how fast this year is racing by. Nor did I realize how busy we've been. Right out of the blocks we were running fast with our 'Officers Training and Planning Meeting'. We worked together and got the designs on the trestleboard for a great year to come. Every player knows his part and we are ready to serve.

We treated our 'Best Gals' to a great brunch in February. The new venue was perfect and we enjoyed the splendid view while we dined on a wonderful meal. The wintery blanket of snow only added to the warm, family atmosphere.

Our movie night was very well attended and everyone enjoyed a night of food and fun. Our brethren from Lake Lodge seemed to enjoy themselves as they were introduced to a Damascus tradition. Fried chicken and Captain America made for a great night, though I'm sure the video of Dave S. still haunts them. I hope we do much more with our Lake Lodge Brethren.

Then it was Black and Blue time. What a blast! Great food, fun, games and prizes, all wrapped up in Damascus fellowship. I don't know who had more fun, the adults or the kids. Either way, it was a great way to clear the winter blues and celebrate our Damascus family. The tattoos are supposed to be temporary...aren't they?

Even our GOAT Team got in on the action, with two successful missions under our belts, and lots of great fellowship with our brethren. We dined with some skirt wearing Brethren and thoroughly enjoyed the Burns Table Lodge. We had a great night at W. Bro. Matt's D-12 School of Instruction. The Trustees have finished their audit and the Lodge directory is under way. Our Candidates are being prepared for the Ashler Program and ritual work has begun. Busy, busy, busy...

Sadly, not all has been fun as Damascus lost one of our best. We will all miss Pa and his ever present smile. But even then, in a time of much sorrow we saw the Craft come together as 100 Masons celebrated our time with Pa. Such is life... we must take some bad along with the good. But even the bad days remind us of our Damascus family and all the times we share. Whether good or bad, we are not alone. We are surrounded by the love of our Brethren.

Thank you to all who have been active with us these past three months. It's been a blast! If you haven't been able to join us, you really should. Come and see why we are so excited. Come and experience the warm fellowship of Damascus. See why we are getting stronger. There are plenty of opportunities coming up to get in on the fun!

So...so far, so good! We are getting back to the basics. Our focus is on those things that make us who we are. We work hard, have fun and remember that our families are all important. It's just that our family seems to be a little bit bigger than most...about 290 ish.

See you in Lodge!
Mick Olson, Worshipful Master

LIKE US !

Just a reminder for all you techies on facebook...so are we!! DL290 has our very own facebook page. Check in to find out the latest Lodge news, see what's for dinner, or just see some pics of our latest escapades. Whatever you need to know about Damascus Lodge, you'll find it on our page. Just search for our group page, Damascus Lodge #290 F&AM and request to join. One of our administrators will grant you access, and you're in! Simply knock, and it shall be opened unto you. Just don't break your monitor screen....

Also, if you are not receiving the TrestleBoard via Email and would like to, contact Bro. Secretary, and have him update your lodge contact information, including your new email address! Then you will receive the TrestleBoard via email!!

DAMASCUS LODGE NO. 290

(Being Uniquely Qualified)

Announces the Conferral of

THE KNIFE AND FORK DEGREE



7:00PM JUNE 30, 2014

LAKE MASONIC CENTER

\$30.00 PER PERSON

\$25.00 LIFE MEMBERS

Price includes 'one time', life membership fee, pin and card.

Open to EA and above.

LE' MENU

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

RSVP Brian Bertram at bsbert290@att.net or 414-486-0806 before June 16th.

Payment is due on or before June 30th. No tickets sold at the door.

Proceeds to benefit ALS Association Wisconsin.

BLACK AND BLUE PICTURES



NEW MASTER MASON





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

1235 EAST HOWARD
MILWAUKEE, WI 53207

Phone: 414-297-9193
Website: www.dl290.org
Email: worshipful.master@dl290.org

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
Curt Campagna, P.M. senior.warden@dl290.org

Junior Warden
Nathan Butts junior.warden@dl290.org

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

Secretary
Michael B. Meyer, P.M. secretary@dl290.org

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.