



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

# THE TRESTLEBOARD

Volume V, Issue 4

May, 2008



## MASONIC HAPPENINGS

Spring is in the air, and Masons are coming out of their snow caves. As we approach summer all y'all become more active.

Last month we had a visit from a Southern Brother, who was visiting Milwaukee for the Shrine Directors Association Annual Convention. Brother Ray Casey, the President of the Shrine Directors Association, came to dinner and the Stated Meeting. He shared with the lodge some of the differences between the ritual in North



Carolina and Wisconsin, but there were lots of similarities, including the fellowship and hospitality.

### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

-  *Masonic Happenings*
-  *New Master Mason*
-  *Echo's in the West*
-  *A Word from your Officers*
-  *Master's Message*
-  *Upcoming Events*

## A NEW MASTER MASON



Worshipful Master Mick Olson  
with New Master Mason Erick Cobb

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## ECHO'S FROM THE WEST

Who is your Brother??????

Yes, we are all Brothers in this craft, but our membership has many other layers of relationships. There is nothing more powerful to a Mason than the raising of a family member or close friend into our mysteries. Every day of my life I look down and see my Great-grandfather's ring that sits on my finger. This causes me to reminisce back to when my Grandfather was helping me at my raising. These powerful images have made me the man I am today.

I think to all of the others who share like-images in their own Masonic lives. One example is our "Olson Twins" (Father Mick and Son Kyle) who have added a new layer to their relationship that can be seen when talking to Mick about his son. I was touched when I observed the Chadderdon boys going through their degrees. The pride found on John Chadderdon's face radiates when he talks about his two boys and their Masonic paths. A telling sign of love and tradition is seen when observing the Graven family together. Through them we learn to understand how Masonic relationships help to make a strong loving family.

There are so many other Brothers, like these examples, in our Lodge, all with the same results. If you are a first generation Mason I hope that someone special allows you the same joy that many of us have already experienced. If there is already a tradition in your family, keep the tradition going. For life has few better feelings in the world than the sense of pride given as gift from someone special who becomes a Brother

Brother Curt Angelo Campagna, P.M.

# MAY 2008

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	31

### SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- 5/1 - 5/3 - Scottish Rite Spring Reunion
- 5/13 - Stated Meeting - 6pm Dinner, 7pm Stated Meeting
- 5/27 - Special Meeting - 6pm Dinner, 7pm EA Degree

## 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.

Leonard Gruszecki, PM - 5/17/1956 - 52yrs	Stephen Montgomery, PM - 5/8/1984 - 24yrs
Dale A. Graeven, PM - 5/26/1981 - 27yrs	James Janczak - 5/15/1989 - 19yrs
Lou Montgomery, PM - 5/11/1982 - 26yrs	Curt Campagna - 5/28/1996 - 12yrs
Tom Lang, PM - 5/10/1983 - 25yrs	Dennis Elliott - 5/27/1997 - 11 yrs
Mick Olson - 5/19/1983 - 25yrs	Stephen Braley - 5/26/1998 - 10 yrs

## 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!"

Curt A. Campagna - 5/2  
Donald O'Kray - 5/8

Robert A. Yunker - 5/26  
Dennis Elliott - 5/31



"Observe good faith and justice towards all Nations; cultivate peace and harmony with all. Religion and Morality enjoin this conduct; and can it be, that good policy does not equally enjoin it? It will be worthy of a free, enlightened, and, at no distant period, a great Nation, to give to mankind the magnanimous and too novel example of a people always guided by an exalted justice and benevolence"

George Washington  
President of the United States - Farewell Address

## Current Event Schedule for 2008

Date	Event
May 1,2,3	Scottish Rite - Spring Reunion
Jun 6&7	Grand Lodge
TBA	Mini Golf - Damascus Lodge Open (Family Event)
Aug 2	Renaissance Faire (TBA) (Family Event)
Oct 19	Past Master's Dinner**(TBA)
Dec 7	Ye Olde Christmas Feast 5:00 pm (Family Event)
Dec 9	Lodge Christmas Party – "Toys 4 Tots" Toy Drive

## THE MASTER'S MESSAGE

### Back to Basics



Worshipful Master  
Mick Olson



In the words of our Most Worshipful Grand Master, masonry is alive and well.

Recently many have sounded the alarm of our dwindling membership rolls. But as the tide ebbs and flows twice in twenty-four hours, so to will the numbers of our brethren rise and fall. I am sure that our craft started with but a handful of good men, committed to the ideal of making good men better. Those few men ignited a spark that grew into a flame that has engulfed the world.

While there were certainly times in history when the number of masons vastly outnumbered our membership today, at no other time in history have the lessons taught by our craft been more relevant. The basic tenets of Masonry are as relevant in today's world as they have been at any time in history.

The strength of our fraternity is not drawn from the number of men on our rolls, but rather how well the men on those rolls exemplify the principles of our craft. It does us no good to bring in members by the droves, only to have them become inactive. It is our challenge to find good men who will stay the course and strive to make a difference.

We look not for quantity, but for quality. To steal a line, Masonry is looking for a few good men. A few good men can make a difference. A few good men can ignite a spark.

As Masonry is alive and well, so too is Damascus Lodge. I am pleased to report that our lodge is not only bringing in new members, we are finding men of outstanding character. Men I am proud to call brother. Good men who will be fine representatives of our craft. Men who will feed the flame of Masonry.

Congratulations to our newest Master Mason, Brother Erick Cobb. Yet another fine man has been added to our rolls. We look forward to watching him and all our recently raised Master Masons as they grow in Masonry and feed the spark within themselves and help to stoke the fire in those around them.

Looking ahead, we've got some great events coming up all through the summer. Our lodge may go dark for the summer, but we will continue to have fun! Check your calendars and make your plans to join us. We'd like to see some of you who haven't been around in a while. Come and meet the new guys. Come visit with the old guys. I promise you, you will have a ton of fun!

See you at Lodge!

Fraternally,

Mick Olson  
Worshipful Master

## 2007 LODGE OFFICERS

### Worshipful Master

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### Degree Director

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"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)

## Degree Director's Script

Congratulations Brothers! Damascus Lodge has now reached the point where we have at least one Brother capable of handling each and every part of the three degrees we confer. We haven't been in this position for a number of years. It sure feels good!

Before I continue, I want to be clear that this is a very promising turn of events. However, there is still one glaring area of concern. What do we do when the one and only Brother who is proficient at a particular part of the degree work becomes ill or is unable to attend Lodge at the time we are conferring that degree?

The answer is less than desirable. Rather than foregoing the degree, we are more likely to have the part read. Don't get me wrong. I'm not being critical of the practice. It has been absolutely necessary at times. But it still lacks something.

It is time for those who do degree work in Lodge to expand their repertoire. In the coming weeks and month, I hope to lay the groundwork so that every part has at least two members of the Lodge who can perform it proficiently.

And, as for those of you who support us from the sidelines while degree work is being conducted, I thank you. But, if you can see yourself taking a more active role, I hope you will step-up and ask for some part of the work as well. It doesn't have to be a big part. All of the parts, big and small, are important to the success of our Lodge.

Ask what you can do to help strengthen the degree work conferred at Damascus Lodge. Your Brothers, both current and future, are counting on you.

Yours Fraternally,  
Michael B. Meyer, PM, Secretary

## A WORD FROM THE JUNIOR DEACON

### Searching for that which was lost! A sign, a token, a word

When asked to put some ideas together for the TrestleBoard, I said to myself, what do I know of what it means to be a mason? In all of my immediate family we had never had anyone be a member of the Masons. I have only been one since September 2006, I mean I was only initiated in February 2008. How did I learn of Masons? Oh yeah I remember, it was a casual meeting while holding down a temporary position after having retired to spend more time closer to home. I recall this guy coming into work saddled upon this monster of a motorcycle with emblems I didn't recognize. It turned out this was the master of Damascus lodge and as fate would have it, we talked about the bike, then I asked about the emblems and what they meant and was politely told, I could find out when I was ready. He gave me his business card which I filed away for another day.

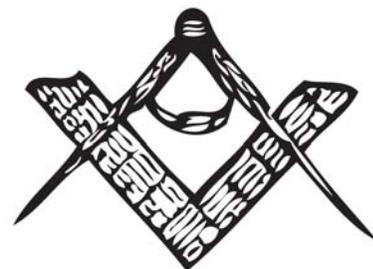
A while later as I was dealing with some personal issues, I came across his card, by now slightly tattered, but I remembered what he said and how even then, I felt drawn to learn more. I visited the Damascus website and was surprised to find a name of someone I had known but hadn't known to be a Mason. I sent a e-mail and was quite pleased to find this man I had known for years was also a part of Damascus. He told me I could find more information by coming to one of our socials. So with more information, I grew more interested in understanding what this all meant. In these past two years I found something out about myself and slowly I changed, or so I've been told. I've found out that we all have things missing from our lives, but we are too close to see it. But when exposed to good men, making other good men better, we all grow to what we can become. The opportunity to learn no matter our age has been revealing, and it makes us reach out to try and do things we never knew we could. This I attribute to the bond of brotherhood, the understanding of one good man to another and searching for that which was lost, even if we didn't know we were the ones lost. Its hard to say thanks to that person who was just there when you needed them and that other who was a mason when you didn't realize, but what a great way to find yourself.

Oh yeah, thanks Curt and Mick for being at the fork in the road of my life.

Brothers of Damascus, I'm proud to be a Damascus Mason.

Fraternally Yours,

Bro. Donald O'Kray  
Junior Deacon





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WE ARE ON THE WEB AT  
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*THE REAL SECRET OF FREEMASONRY*  
-  
*MAKING GOOD MEN BETTER*

## LODGE TRUSTEES

Curt A. Campagna, P.M. (2008)	414-545-9235
Lloyd A. Wilson (2009)	414-315-0136
Dale A. Graeven, P.M. (2009)	414-764-8187

## SICK AND VISITATION CHAIRPERSON

Curt A. Campagna, P.M.	414-545-9235
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## MASTER'S BOARD

Keep those pocket petitions coming in. The Master's Board Chairman Patrick Miltzer and Master's Board Secretary Chris Favero 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.

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## OUR NEW MASTER MASON AND SOME REALLY OLD BIRTHDAY BOYS

