



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

# THE TRESTLEBOARD

Volume VI, Issue 5

May 2009



## AND AWAY WE GO!!!!

On April 28th Damascus Lodge had the distinct pleasure and honor to initiate three very deserving and worthy Brethren into our craft. We congratulate and welcome our newest Entered Apprentices, Brothers Kevin Hart, Steve Schultz and Tom Stachowiak. We hope you enjoyed your initiation into our art and found it to be a rewarding and inspiring evening. We look forward to seeing you in lodge and anxiously await your advancement in Masonry.

Once again our degree team did an outstanding job in conferring the EA Degree. It was very pleasing to see so many Brethren on the sidelines to support our new Brethren. A special thanks to those visitors from Lake, Excelsior and Trowel Lodges. We appreciate your time and support. Thank you for hanging in there for a long night. We hope to enjoy your companionship in the future.

We also congratulate Brother Ben Junger on being passed to the degree of Fellowcraft on April 14th. This is just the beginning Brethren! Our labors continue as on May 26th as we initiate two more outstanding men! Please mark your calendars and come out to show your support as they begin their quest for Masonic light.

Once more, 'well done' to our degree team and congratulations to our newest Fellowcraft and Entered Apprentices. Thank you for choosing Damascus Lodge to be YOUR Masonic home. We'll keep a plate warm for you!

### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

-  *Away We Go!!!*
-  *Lodge Calendar*
-  *Echo's from the West*
-  *Senior Deacon Msg.*
-  *Master's Message*
-  *Upcoming Events*
-  *At the Right Hand*

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## ECHO'S FROM THE WEST

Greetings Brethren,

This month Brethren I will be taking my information from the “Pocket Encyclopedia of Masonic Symbols”, published by The Masonic Service Association in Silver Spring, MD.

**Ashlar:** Rough Ashlar, a stone from the quarry before squaring, a symbol of untutored man. Perfect Ashlar, a stone squared and smoothed, symbol of enlightened manhood. Perfection is here attained by a process of taking away; no stroke of gavel or chisel can add anything to a rough ashlar; it may only remove. Perfection, then, is already within. The famous sculptor, Gutzon Borglum (a Freemason), asked how he carved stone into statues, answered:

“It is very simple. I merely knock away with hammer and chisel the stone I do not need and the statue is there—it was there all the time.”

In the Great Light we read: “The kingdom of heaven is within you.” Images are made by a process of taking away. The perfection is already within. All that is required is to remove the roughness, the excrescences, “divesting our hearts and consciences of the vices and superfluities of life” to show forth the perfect man and Mason and to find the kingdom within. Until next month Brethren,

Larry Chadderdon  
Senior Warden

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### 2009 Upcoming Event Schedule

May 17	Puppy Party (Spouses and Partners)
Jun 5&6	Grand Lodge
Jul 12	Mini Golf - Damascus Lodge Open (Friends & Family)
TBA	Jobie Baseball Game (Take ice cream)

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### DEGREE WORK

Brethren, we have new petitions and new members!! The Lodge renaissance continues as we bring in new members. We are privileged to have many, very outstanding new candidates receiving their Masonic degrees at Damascus. Our Officers and Degree Teams are doing outstanding work. The only thing missing is... YOU! See the Lodge schedule for upcoming degrees.

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### *Lodge History*

Why does Damascus Lodge have a personalized, autographed print of Bro. Harry

## THE MASTER'S MESSAGE

### That which ye sow ...



Worshipful Master  
Mick Olson



Brethren,

Spring is upon us! I hope. Check our calendar for some great upcoming events and let's enjoy together, the seemingly few days of warmth we get.

I also hope that you and your loved ones had a blessed Easter. Spring and Easter. Both of which present us the opportunity of renewal. Our Lord Jesus died for us to have the opportunity to gain eternal life. Spring is when Winter's deep freeze gives way to the blossoms of a renewed life. A spiritual renewal, and a physical renewal. Renewal, and reawakening.

We are reminded in the Bible, "That which ye sow, so shall ye reap." Spring is the best time to remember these words of wisdom. Spring is a time of planting, of blossoms and promises of a rich and fruitful harvest. If you put in the work now, you will reap the rewards later.

This is so true in all we do. Extra work in your profession may gain you a raise or promotion. Extra time with your family builds stronger bonds of love and lasting memories. A little extra effort goes such a long way!

This is especially true in Masonry. You will get from our craft what you are willing to put into it. If you invest the time to be active in the lodge, your reward will be much greater than you ever anticipated. I see this in many of our new members and officers. They are investing their time and efforts to help strengthen and build our lodge. In return, they are having so much fun! You can see it in their faces as they wash dishes or conduct a candidate. Ironically, the harder they work the more fun they have!

Extra degree practices mean extra opportunities for brotherhood (and ice-cream). Good degree work means candidates who are excited about becoming active in the lodge. Excited candidates mean strong members who get involved. Strong members mean more people working hard to improve the lodge in other activities. More activities mean more opportunities to get involved and have more fun. It's a vicious circle that keeps feeding itself!

If you give 10%, you'll get 10%. If you give 50%, you'll get 50%. But give us 100% and you'll be amazed at what you will get in return. My time as Master of this Lodge has taught me this lesson manifold. I've told so many of our members and candidates, you get out of Masonry what you put into it.

Brethren, consider giving our craft 100%. For some that is obviously more than for others. Jobs and families draw on each of us differently and should be our first priority. But if you give Lodge 100% of what you can, your return will be far more than you can imagine. Learn that ritual part. Help in the kitchen. Whatever you can give, we gladly accept and pledge you our continued friendship and brotherly love in return. And at Damascus, we've got a whole lot of love to go around!

See you in Lodge!

Mick Olson  
Worshipful Master

## 2009 LODGE OFFICERS

### Worshipful Master

Charles "Mick" Olson (Jewel)  
618 Clark Ave., South Milwaukee, WI 53172

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C 414-397-3076

### Senior Warden

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### Junior Warden

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### Treasurer

Louis W. Montgomery, P.M. (Marian)  
8545 W. Beloit Rd, Apt 3005, West Allis, WI 53227

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### Secretary

Michael B. Meyer, P.M. (Deborah)  
13060 W. National Ave., New Berlin, WI 53151

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### Chaplain Donald O'Kray

**Senior Deacon** Michael Fairbanks

**Junior Deacon** Sean Schult

**Senior Steward** Jon Syverson

**Junior Steward** Dennis McNulty

**Counselor** Curt Campagna, P.M.

**Tiler** Dale R. Graeven, P.M.

**Degree Director** Michael B. Meyer, P.M.

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## 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 - 53yrs

Dale A. Graeven, PM - 5/26/1981 - 28yrs

Lou Montgomery, PM - 5/11/1982 - 27yrs

Tom Lang, PM - 5/10/1983 - 26yrs

Mick Olson - 5/19/1983 - 26yrs

Stephen Montgomery, PM - 5/8/1984 - 25yrs

James Janczak - 5/15/1989 - 20yrs

Curt Campagna - 5/28/1996 - 13yrs

Dennis Elliott - 5/27/1997 - 12 yrs

Stephen Braley - 5/26/1998 - 11 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, P.M. - 5/2

Michael Fairbanks - 5/4

Donald O'Kray - 5/8

David Hartl - 5/14

Robert A. Yunker - 5/26

George Webber P.M. - 5/27

Dennis Elliott - 5/31

"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)

## AT THE RIGHT HAND

### *“And Part Upon the Square”*

Many definitions of a square exist in the English language. A square can be defined as an object with an angle of 90 degrees, a fourth part of a circle, or a box with four equal sides. For our craft and as Masons, the square has “speculative” meaning.

When we as Masons conduct ourselves during the course of our everyday lives, whether making a living, dealing with problems of the family and children, or dealing with a difficult neighbor; we are putting on the face of Masonry and all of Freemasonry is being judged by our actions and words.

In the days when Masons were both operative and speculative, Master Masons received higher wages for their work. Their system of beliefs and reputation of being “square” allowed them to travel into foreign lands to work during a time when very few people could be trusted, thus earning them a higher wage to be better enabled to support their families.

The belief in the ideals of the Masonic Fraternity and the code of conduct we follow is the same as our very first brothers in the craft and is the very reasons that Masons today are trusted and well received nearly everywhere in the free world today.

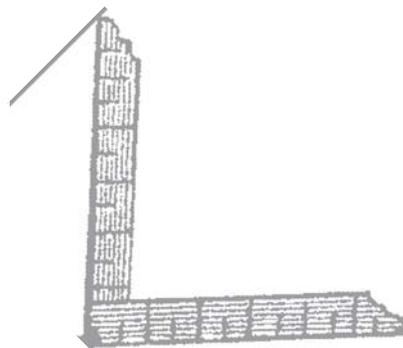
How does a non Mason distinguish a Mason from all others? The most obvious and easy way is noticing a Masonic ring, a hat with the Square and Compasses, or perhaps noticing a Masonic bumper sticker on a car.

The not so obvious method of recognizing a Mason is noticing when an item not charged for is returned to the store and the difference paid, or when too much change is returned and it is pointed out that too much change has been given. How about the person who sees someone drop a twenty dollar bill, picks it up and gives it back to the rightful owner? Is it possible that you have seen a Mason at work? Is this one face of Masonry we wish everyone to see?

The Angle of a Square is symbolic of the Square of Virtue and serves to remind us that as Masons; the Square of Virtue is our rule and guide as we deal with mankind with honesty and integrity, whether in Lodge or away from Lodge.

Lastly, as Masons we leave our Lodge by parting upon the square. At the end of a Lodge night, we have all performed substantial and meaningful jobs, worked hard and tirelessly toward common goals. We have dealt with each other with honesty and integrity; we have worked under the Angle of the Square.

Michael Fairbanks  
Senior Deacon

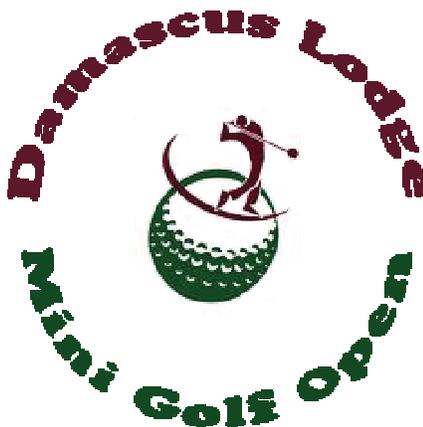


# MAY 2009

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	<b>12</b>	13	14	15	16
<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	<b>26</b>	27	28	29	30
31						

- 5/1 - Milwaukee Iron Football Event
- 5/12 - Stated Meeting - 6pm Dinner, 7pm Lodge
- 5/17 - Puppy Party!!! - Noon.
- 5/18 - South Shore Lodge - Master Mason Degree at the Scottish Rite 7pm
- 5/26 - Special Communication - 6pm Dinner, 7pm - Two EA Degrees



**Coming Sunday**  
**July 12, 2009**  
**3:00 P.M.**

**Watch for further details!**

*"In any moment of decision the best thing you can do is the right thing, the next best thing is the wrong thing, and the worst thing you can do is nothing."*

*--Theodore Roosevelt,  
 26th president of the U.S.*

## *The Involvement of Freemasons in the American Revolution*

### *An Epic Masonic Struggle*

*By: Jon Syverson, Senior Steward*

We have learned the history of our country based on our school textbooks, our teachers and professors. A historical accounting comprised of commonly accepted history passed generation to generation. What many of us may not know is the close involvement of Freemasons in the struggle for American Independence. Many of our founding fathers were Freemasons, but perhaps more importantly, the majority of the senior political and military leadership were our brother Masons. In fact, courageous Masons lead the way in our fledgling struggle for independence and freedom. Among those are several names you'll quickly recognize, e.g., General George Washington, Ben Franklin, Paul Revere, John Paul Jones, Henry Knox and many others.

Flying to the Aid of Brother Masons. Lesser known are the stories of brother Masons who flew to the aid of their fellows from abroad. Most notably, the Marquis de Lafayette, Baron Frederick W.A. Von Steuben and Brigadier General Tadeusz Kosciuszko. Here in Milwaukee many know of General Kosciuszko, but few may know that he's both an American and Polish Hero. Moreover, Masonic principles played an important role in the early development of our nation and went on to set the foundation for similar revolutions and actions to repel tyranny elsewhere.

As Freemasons we are steadfast and true to home, country and flag, just as our Founding Fathers; true spiritual patriots. They risked everything for the sake of freedom, in order to found our new nation. They pledged life, honor, family and fortune, placing freedom ahead of all else. Our nation owes a tremendous debt of gratitude, wages which cannot be paid in gold, to those many Masons who stood against tyranny then, just as we do today.

All right, so Freemasons were involved in the American Revolution; however, what small role could they have played? The factual record tells that story well:

Seventy-four men were commissioned to the rank of General in the Continental Army between 1775 through 1783, of that number fully thirty-three, or 46% were Freemasons.

When we celebrate Independence Day this year let's remember the spirit of 1776 as a true Masonic victory.

SIC SEMPER TYRANNIS

Brigadier General Tadeusz Kosciuszko  
Freemason, American and Polish War Hero  
1746 - 1817





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WE ARE ON THE WEB AT  
[HTTP://WWW.DL290.ORG](http://www.dl290.org)

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*THE REAL SECRET OF FREEMASONRY*  
-  
*MAKING GOOD MEN BETTER*

## LODGE TRUSTEES

Lloyd A. Wilson (2009)	414-315-0136
Dale A. Graeven, P.M. (2009)	414-764-8187
Patrick J. Militzer, P.M. (2010)	414-469-9804

## SICK AND VISITATION CHAIRPERSON

Larry Chadderdon	414-421-9624
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## MASTER'S BOARD

Keep those pocket petitions coming in. The Master's Board Chairman Patrick Militzer and Master's Board Secretary Don O'Kray 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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## NEWEST FELLOWCRAFT

