



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

# THE TRESTLEBOARD

Volume VII, Issue 5

May 2010



## HOEDOWN AHEAD!

Bring the family on May 23rd for a fun filled afternoon of cowboys and cowgirls at the Damascus Corral Hoedown! 'Sheriff Suga' and his Deputies have planned a day of BBQ and Square Dancin' guaranteed to get yer boot scoots a boogie'n.

Music begins at 3:00 pm with vittles commencing shortly after. Dress in yer finest Cowboy and Cowgirl duds! This is a formal, 'black shotgun' affair! At only \$5.00 for adults and kids fer free, you can't afford to pass on this great party! RSVP 'Sheriff Suga' aka Bro. Mike Fairbanks before May 16th to make sure we git a feed bag fer ya!

## ICH SPRECHE BRUDER!

On April 27th a contingent of 'Damascus Men' had the sincere pleasure of attending an Entered Apprentice Degree at Aurora Lodge. We began the night in true Damascus fashion with burgers at Five Guys. With bellies filled it was off to Aurora Lodge for the degree.

How impressive! Though the degree was conducted in German, the words were all familiar. Whatever language you speak, Brotherhood is universally understood. We thank their candidate for sharing his special night with us, and our hosts for a wonderful night of friendship and Gemütlichkeit.

## PETITIONS AND DEGREES

At our last stated meeting Damascus Lodge received two more petitions for membership. And there are rumors of several more to come. Outstanding!

Our current Entered Apprentices are making great progress on their posting. This group has been very active and we appreciate their high level of dedication to complete their labors as an Entered Apprentice and pass on to Fellowcraft.

Our Officers recently had a great practice and all are ready to perform the degrees in their new stations. Congratulations on the hard work accomplished, Brethren! It looks like this could be another busy summer!

### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

-  *Upcoming Degrees*
-  *HoeDown*
-  *By the Plumb*
-  *Master's Message*
-  *Upcoming Events*
-  *Counselor's Corner*
-  *Miscellanea*
-  *Senior Deacon's Message*
-  *Senior Steward's Message*

# MAY 2010

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

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- 5/11 - Stated Meeting 6pm Dinner, 6:30pm Master's Board, 7pm Lodge Opens
- 5/23 - HoeDown 3pm - See Page 7
- 5/25 - Special Communication - EA Degree - 6pm Dinner, 7pm Lodge Opens.
- 6/4 -6/5 - Grand Lodge - Madison

## MISCELLANEA

Music written by Brother John Stafford Smith (1750-1836) of Inverness Lodge #4 in London was, at one time, used by an Irish Masonic Orphans' Home as their song. Later it became a popular drinking song for many years known as "To Anacreon in Heaven". Then, some years later, the music was adopted by Francis Scott Key to which he wrote the words to our National Anthem, "The Star Spangled Banner".

## PLOWING INTO SPRING

If one were to ask 100 Brethren the purpose of Freemasonry, the resulting answers will likely have two things in common: making good men better and relief for those less fortunate. From my station at the right-hand of the Worshipful Master, I've been able to see up close how both goals come together. Following on the tails of Past Master Mick Olson's two years of leadership, we've set a high bar for the ensuing year and are racing to meet it.

On March 23rd we initiated three new Entered Apprentices. Pete Czechorski, Tom Tinney, and Brian Bertram can now be called 'Brother' as our most recently initiated Masons. Since then more petitions have been read and more will follow. Last year was one of our busiest as we worked through the summer, a time when we are traditionally dark, to confer degrees on those who had made themselves ready. This year the possibility exists that we will again labor through the summer.

Meanwhile at our last two stated meetings motions were passed which extended our charity work. Damascus has committed to donate \$500 to the Pediatric Stroke Network. Plans were made to purchase \$1000 (double last years \$500) in onions from the Tripoli Shrine and then donate them to the Hunger Task Force. Donations of \$150 each will be made to the Scottish Rite Children's Learning Center and the Masonic Angel Fund, \$100 to Royal Arch Research Assistance and three \$1000 Scholarships will be presented at area high schools.

We're managing to assist others in a time of recession, perhaps when it is needed most. We're finding the time to bring more men to light as Masons. And we're having fun doing it! I'm deeply proud of, and blessed by the fellowship we share. Join us for a successful year, full of exciting events.

See you there!

Sean Schult - Senior Deacon

## THE MASTER'S MESSAGE



Worshipful Master  
Larry Chadderdon

Brethren,

May is upon us. We are happily back in our building and our Masonic labors are starting to swing into high gear. With our Entered Apprentice's approaching readiness for posting we, your officers have been working on our degree skills. At this point we are planning on doing an Entered Apprentice degree on the 25th.

On the 27th of April many of us were lucky enough to attend a special Entered Apprentice Degree at Aurora Lodge. The degree was done completely in German and was a modified French Rite. I found it very educational. If you get the chance to attend one of Aurora Lodge's degrees I would highly suggest it.



On another note. Brother Senior Warden Lloyd Wilson is in the hospital following a minor stroke on April 24th. He is at St. Luke's in Milwaukee where they have him on a full regimen of occupational, physical and speech therapies. He is doing well and is in good spirits.

Until next month brothers.  
Larry Chadderdon WM

## 2010 LODGE OFFICERS

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**Junior Deacon** Jon Syverson  
**Junior Steward** Nate Butts  
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**Senior Deacon** Sean Schult  
**Senior Steward** Matthew Wright  
**Counselor** Mick Olson, P.M. 414-397-3076  
**Degree Director** Michael B. Meyer, P.M.

## ODE TO THE FELLOWCRAFT

Of course a man's Masonic Journey officially starts with his Entered Apprentice degree, but I would like to think that a man really doesn't start building his Masonic "edifice", his house not made with hands, if you will, until the Fellowcraft degree. Why do I think that? Well it takes a special kind of man to pass to the next degree. An Entered Apprentice who applies himself, studies hard and passes on to the next degree should be proud of that achievement. He's achieved something that not many men have, and that no one can take away from him.

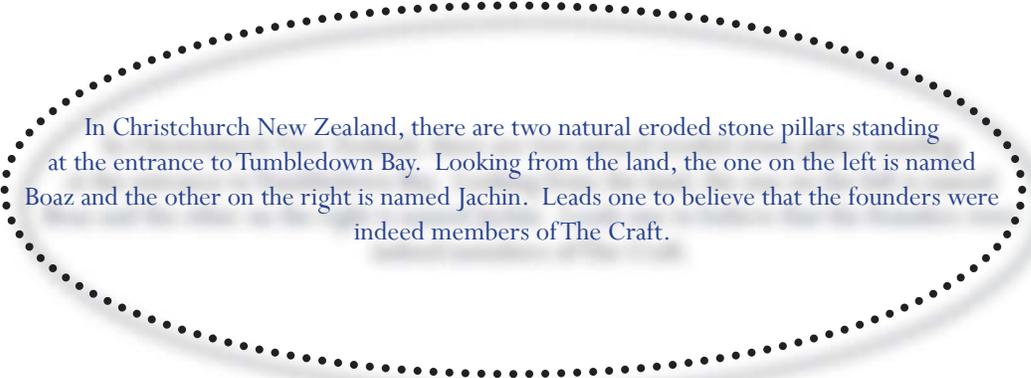
When I was first passed to the degree of Fellowcraft I was given a leaflet that displayed a series of statistics and charts, and what it all basically boiled down to was one figure: 56%. I remember that percentage very well, because back then, that was the average percentage of Entered Apprentices that dropped out of Masonry and never proceeded to the following degrees. 56%! That was astonishing to me! That figure really hit home for me, because I remember my Entered Apprentice group was large, at the very least there was 19 or 20 of us, but only seven of us were passed on to the degree of Fellowcraft. The Brother handing out the leaflet told us we should be proud of our achievement. And I was. Very proud! But still...56%? That was back in 1993. I can't even imagine what the number of 'drop outs' is today, but no matter what the number is, every degree a Mason attains should still be considered quite an achievement and cause for some internal pride and reflection.

The leaflet I received didn't give any possible reasons why the brothers never proceeded on to the next degrees, but in John J. Robison's book, "The Pilgrim Path", Robison writes about some of the reasons he had found why men were dropping out after only the first degree. One very prevalent explanation is the extensive memorization that is required, which, if you think about it, is a daunting task! I mean...who uses the word "Heretofore" anymore? Some of the words are hard to even relate to, much less memorize!

The very lengthy point I am trying to arrive at correlates with the old saying, "Anything is what you make of it." If a brother is just memorizing the words to get to the next degree, he's missing the whole purpose of why those words were printed. That is why I am so passionate about the Fellowcraft degree. It was here I was able to understand why I was doing some of the same things I had done as an Entered Apprentice, because now I knew their meaning. It was here I could accept the principles of the fraternity, because I realized their importance. It is here I could comprehend the deep significance of my obligation, something that was quite a shock to me initially as an Entered Apprentice. And finally, it was here, as a Fellowcraft I realized that not only had I become part of something that is truly amazing, but I also realized that everything that had been presented to me thus far had multiple levels of meaning, importance and significance associated with it, down to the very words I was tasked to memorize.

It is my hope that all my brothers discover this same realization within themselves, which then starts a hunger for further Masonic education that becomes insatiable. Every lodge is dependent upon this hunger, as well as every appendant body. Therefore, everyone involved is charged with sparking that interest within our Brother – the Fellowcraft.

Brother Matthew Wright  
Senior Steward



In Christchurch New Zealand, there are two natural eroded stone pillars standing at the entrance to Tumbledown Bay. Looking from the land, the one on the left is named Boaz and the other on the right is named Jachin. Leads one to believe that the founders were indeed members of The Craft.

## BY THE PLUMB

“And in all the land were no women found so fair as the daughters of Job: and their father gave them inheritance among their brethren.” Job 42:15

Bethel No. 6 of Job’s Daughters met at George Washington 1776 Lodge on March 26 and dedicated the evening to honor the Masons in their lives. The ‘Jobies’ put on quite a show and you could tell they worked very hard to produce a wonderful program. It was heartwarming to see the number of Masons that turned out in support of our Job’s Daughters! Even more heartwarming was seeing the excitement on the faces of everyone who took part in the program and the appreciation of those on the sidelines watching.

The kind of support the Masons showed that night is exactly the kind of support our youth groups need. That our youth are not at home with their faces plastered to a computer game or television; or out prowling the streets and getting into trouble is a testimony to the love and dedication ‘Jobie’ parents give their children. It is heartwarming to see hard work and consideration our youth puts into the fraternity while keeping up with homework, church, and everything else that competes for their time and attention.

I saw young women who are happy and proud to be with their parents and grandparents. Something I have not often seen since I was a child. One young lady, who was well into her teens, had her arm looped through the arm of a Mason who was unmistakably her grandfather. I asked her if she knew that ‘young rascal’ on her arm. Her reply is one that is seldom heard from today’s teenagers. As her face lit up with a smile from ear to ear, she announced to me and anyone else within hearing distance that “Oh, this is my grandpapa!” as she gripped his arm tighter and snuggled closer to his side. Wow!! How do we bottle that kind of love, respect, and dedication to pass on to all the youth in today’s world?

Flash forward to April 10 at the Lake Masonic Center rededication. Seated in front of me was the Bethel, respectfully and patiently awaiting their cue to perform their portion of the day’s program. As a member of Lake Lodge was being called to the East to receive recognition for his hard work and dedication to the Lodge; one young lady who could not have been more than 10 years old became quite animated, giggling and pointing. All the young women around her were giggling and pointing, genuinely happy and sharing in the excitement this young lady was caught up in.

So, again I asked the question. “Hey, do you know that guy or something?” Brethren, a lump formed in my throat and goose bumps ran up and down my arms when she turned around and looked at me with the biggest grin, eyes sparkling, as she proclaimed “THAT is my Dad!” There it was again! Love, respect, and pride for her dad.

As with the teenager at Honor Masons Night, there was no mistaking it. I could only think “Holy Crud! How in the world do we capture their spirit, the spirit of these young women of Job’s Daughters and spread it? The world would be so much better.” Indeed, our world is a better place because of the Job’s Daughters and the love and dedication of their parents.

Job’s Daughters Bethel No. 6 meets on Friday nights at the Lake Masonic Center. For more information on the Job’s Daughters please contact myself or Mom Sheryl Bertram, Bethel No. 6 Guardian.

In 1860 in Limerick, Ireland, there was found in a small chapel a stone dated 1517 with the following inscription:

“I will serve to live with love & care  
Upon the level, by the square.”

Michael Fairbanks  
Junior Warden

## COUNSELOR'S CORNER

### Atta Boy!

As I sit back as an old, grizzled Past Master and watch our new Officers and members, I can't help but smile. We're getting more good men who want to be a part of our craft. These guys get it! They understand what being a Mason means. They are hungry for what Masonry has to offer and are devouring their memory work with the passion of a Damascus Man at an all-you-can-eat buffet! Keep it up guys. I'm impressed.

And our new corps of Officers...simply outstanding! Many are new to the craft, and while they sometime need guidance, their dedication to the fraternity is undeniable. It is great to see them actively seeking to perform their duties and more. They are learning quickly. They want to make a difference and be a part of the leadership of our Lodge.

Keep it up guys! Being new, you will stumble. We all do. You will make mistakes, because the only man who does not err is the one who does nothing. You are giving us 100% and we pledge our support to you.

A few short years ago Damascus Lodge was struggling. Now 'us old guys' are struggling to keep up! We are very pleased to see that the future of our Lodge is very bright. Brethren, you make us proud. Keep up the good work!!

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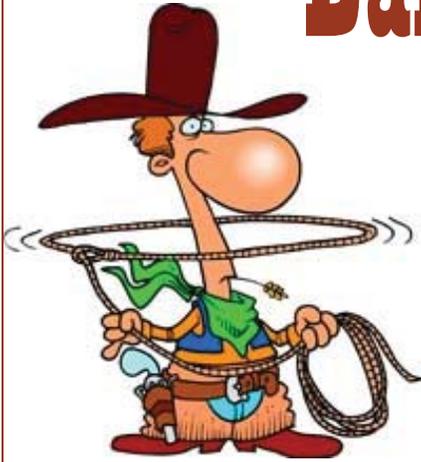
## CONGRATULATIONS BROTHER DALE SHRINE DIRECTOR'S ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT 2009 - 2010



**Swing yer pardner Roun' 'n Roun'**

**Bring 'er to the**

# **Damascus Hoedown**



**Sunday, May 23, 2010**

**3:00 pm**

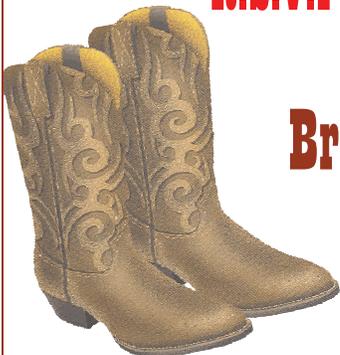


**Enjoy a Damascus Style B.B.Q.  
With all the fixins'!**

**Adults \$5.00, Yungins' are FREE!!!**

**(Eat as many of 'em as ya want)**

**R.S.V.P. Sheriff 'Suga' at 414-397-0330 b'fer May 16<sup>th</sup>**



**Bring yer Dancin' boots! Y'all be there now.  
Ya Hear!**



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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

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Patrick J. Militzer, P.M. (2011) 414-469-9804  
Jon Syverson (2012)

## SICK AND VISITATION CHAIRPERSON

Lloyd Wilson 414-315-0136

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## 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.

BROTHER DALE IS READY FOR THE HOEDOWN!

