



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

THE TRESTLEBOARD

Volume XI, Issue V

May 2014



EA ON THE WAY!

Mark your calendar for May 27th so you don't miss the initiation of Mr. Mike Corso. It's not like we don't have enough firemen... We just know they are all great cooks, and we love to eat. It's a perfect fit!

We look forward to welcoming Mike with a great degree and know he is going to fit right in. Come and make sure he gets a proper Damascus style welcome.

When's the next sale at the La-z-boy store??? We're going to need some more chairs...

THREE'S COMPANY

On Tuesday, April 22nd Damascus Lodge was privileged to Pass three of our Brothers to the Degree of Fellowcraft. We congratulate Brothers Jason Sliwa, Tim Bauer and Bob Bertram on their advancement and look forward to working with them as they continue their Masonic Journey.

Congratulations are also in order for our Ritual Team for an outstanding night of work. It is not easy juggling three candidates at once, and our Officers performed like seasoned vets, giving each of our Brothers an excellent Degree.

Special thanks to Brother Stach for filling in at the last minute as Tiler and making sure our 'Round Robin' went off without a hitch. Thanks also, to Brother Matt W. for stepping in on short notice to cover Junior Steward. Seems Brother Scott Fairbanks considers an emergency appendectomy sufficient reason to not participate. I remember a time when men were men and sacrifices were made to uphold our duties . Just sayin'.... Hopefully, by the time he reads this Brother Scott will be back on his feet, ready to circumambulate once more. He actually sent me an apologetic text message the morning of his procedure! Pretty dedicated...or highly medicated?? You decide... 'Speedy recovery' from us all, Buddy!

GO FISH!

No... we're not playing cards. We're talking baseball! Join the Damascus family as we cheer on the Lakeshore Chinooks as they battle the ferocious Green Bay Bullfrogs. This is baseball at its best, a small, intimate park chocked full of fun for all ages. Baseball, jump houses, autographs, games, lots of food and more! This is a summer league for college All-Star players hoping to make the big leagues. You will not be disappointed!

And you won't believe this...your ticket cost is only \$5.00 per adult, kids 17 and under are free! Parking is FREE! Food

and beverages are very reasonable. Even the souvenirs are a bargain. This is a perfect night to get away and enjoy a summer night with your Damascus family.

Game time is 6:35 pm. Come early and enjoy the food. Stay until the end and get some autographs. Or leave when you must. The kids will love the inflated jump houses and the ice cream is delicious. See the flier for more information, or go to the Chinooks' web-site. We have a limited number of tickets, so sign up soon.

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

-  *Family Matters*
-  *Master's Message*
-  *Three's Company*
-  *Two's Company*
-  *Like Us*
-  *DL Mini Golf Open*
-  *Chaplain's Corner*
-  *Knife & Fork*
-  *Lodge Photos*

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS FOR 2014

Date	Event	Date	Event
May 13	Stated Meeting 6pm -Dinner 7pm Lodge	Jun10	Stated Meeting 6pm Dinner 7pm Lodge
May 25	EA Practice - Bring your appetite for learning	Jun 1	DL 290 Mini Golf Open (F&F)
May 27	Special Comm - Entered Apprentice Degree	Jul 17	Go Fish!! Baseball Game (F&F)
Jun 6	Grand Lodge Annual Communication	Aug 9	Renaissance Faire (F&F) (F&F) family and friends invited

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER: "TIME OF RENEWAL"

Spring is finally here! The snow is gone (knock on wood). The cold, dark isolation of winter gives way to warmth and sunlight. Neighbors that you haven't seen in months are outside. Birds are chirping. The grass is starting to get green. Trees are budding. "Spring is nature's way of saying "Let's Party" (Robin Williams). It's little wonder that the Spring has always been considered a time of renewal.

Spring can be the perfect time for renewal and revitalization of our faith and in our brotherhood. Try to take a moment from the tiring hustle of life to appreciate and enjoy all that God has given us. "God's gifts put man's best dream's to shame" (Elizabeth Barrett Browning). Pull the bike out of the garage and enjoy a ride through the country side. Read a book in a hammock on a warm spring day. Get outside with your family. Fire up the grill. It's all good for the soul and will help strengthen and reconnect you with your faith.

In terms of brotherhood, ask yourself what led you to ask to become a Mason in the first place, and try to focus on it. Was it a drive to improve as a man? Was it the company of brothers who genuinely care about you, and share similar core values? If you've been away for a while, just as you welcome the return of warmer days after a long winter, your brothers will welcome having you back in lodge.

Matt Hanchek, Chaplain

"It has not been my fortune to know very much of Freemasonry, but I have had the great fortune to know many Freemasons and have been able in that way to judge the tree by its fruit." - Calvin Coolidge

MINI GOLF!

June 1st, assuming there is no snow, we will be meeting for our traditional Damascus Lodge Open Mini-golf and pizza outing. Golf will be at River Falls Recreation Center, 5401 W. Layton Avenue, Greenfield. Tee time is 2:30 pm. After golf we'll caravan over to Organ Piper Pizza, 4353 So. 108th Street, Greenfield and enjoy some great pizza and even more fun.

All this fun can be yours for the nominal cost of \$10.00 per person. Guests are welcome, but will be charged \$20.00 per person. This includes golf and pizza, so...such a deal I have for you!

See the flier and make your reservations today. Bring the whole family for fun and food. Don't forget your sunscreen, or polar bear repellent, whichever you see fit. We hope to see you on the links!

TWO'S COMPANY

Not to be outdone, Brother Tom 'Pirate' Tinney decided he no longer needed his appendix. He must have been jealous about all that good hospital food. Being Damascus men, it's always about the food...isn't it. Speedy recovery, Brother Tom! Next time you should try this closer to home.



Friendship

When received into the Lodge as a candidate in the Master Mason Degree we are taught that friendship is one of the most excellent tenets of our Order. Later, in the York Rite Degrees we are instructed that the color blue denotes friendship, and is the peculiar characteristic of a Master Mason. Though technically referred to as 'Symbolic Lodge', today we often hear our Lodges referred to as 'Blue Lodge'. It seems friendship is pretty important in Masonry.

Friendships most generally evolve out of having something in common with another person. We have High School friends, College friends, and even workplace friends. I often refer to my 'Army buddies' and of course, my 'Lodge buddies'. Our friendships are often grouped or categorized by those things we have in common, a common thread that links or binds us to, and with the others. As we journey through life our sphere of friends evolves, changing as we ourselves change.

A short time ago I was engaged in conversation about membership in our craft when another Brother spoke about a membership presentation he had attended, in which the moderator asked everyone to write a list of their 'ten best friends'. The presenter then had everyone put a check mark next to those on the list who are Masons. He then asked if anyone had a person on their list without a check mark. Those who raised their hands were then asked, 'Why?'

The presenters point was simply that if the man is good enough to be among your best friends, he is likely good enough to be a Mason. But taking this a step further, I realized that all but one of the persons on my list WAS a Mason. The lone exception was a self-proclaimed agnostic, that being the only reason I had never pursued getting a petition into his hands.

As I pondered this, I came to realize that since joining Masonry at age 21, my closest friends have evolved over the years into those with whom I have the most in common. I still have friends with whom I was in the Army or worked with. But, my dearest friends are those in whom I have the most trust and confidence. Those whom I can call on at any hour and know they will be there for me. Those, for whom I would drop everything and fly to their aid if called. Those in whose fidelity I can with confidence confide.

I also realized that my list of 'close friends', or the 'dearest friends' is quite short. My friendships have evolved from quantity to quality. While shared experience was once most important, shared beliefs are now the gauge. And with those friends, I have shared experiences that have been even more memorable and dear than those of the past.

Lodge is the cement that binds us together into one sacred band or society, of friends and brothers, amongst whom no contention should ever exist, but that noble emulation of who best can work and best agree. I like spending time with my friends.

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.

FAMILY MATTERS

My Masonic journey has been a trying one. It has tested my faith, and family bonds. Two of the things that our Masonic teachings impress upon us; we have to believe in a Supreme Being to be a Mason and are constantly reminded of the importance of families and helping those in need. Recently I had the opportunity to do all three.

Masonry has made me more religious than I have ever been in my life, going to church more and reading the Bible. Something that was a very small focus in my life in the past.

My parents were against me being a Mason and I had been "disowned" until I left the fraternity. But my parents were in need, as my mother has limited driving ability and my dad was in need of surgery. So, regardless of the family status, I returned to their home to take care of them when they were in need. Several of my Masonic brothers, friends and family members couldn't believe I was actually going to go and do it. I looked at it as a chance to repair the family rift, and follow my obligation to help those in need.

I did mend the family and for the first time in four years have all the family members talking and being reasonable with each other, and they are now accepting of me being in the fraternity as well. I was able to attend mass with my parents, something not allowed previously. All due to a simple thing, being there to help when needed.

So, I call upon all of my Brothers to think about their families and friends, and their needs, great or small, and remind you that even the little things make a huge impact in your wellbeing and the wellbeing of those around you. So, I say thank you to all of you, my Brothers, for making me the better man and helping me pass that along to others. Let's all continue to pay it forward.

Nathan Butts, J.W.



BRISTOL
RENAISSANCE
FAIRE

Saturday, August 9, 2014

**Mark your calendars now to save the date.
Times and pricing will be announced soon.
Bring the whole family!!**

Come join us at The Faire!!



**Coming Sunday
June 1, 2014
2:30 P.M.**

Bring the whole family!

Join the Damascus Lodge family as we spend the afternoon with the Masters, the missing links... I mean, join the Masters ON the links!!

**River Falls Family Fun Center
5401 W. Layton, Greenfield**



We'll play golf, then go have pizza at

**Organ Piper Pizza
4353 S. 108th St., Greenfield**



Tickets:

**\$10.00 for DL290 Members and immediate family.
\$20.00 for guests.**

Deadline for tickets: May 23rd

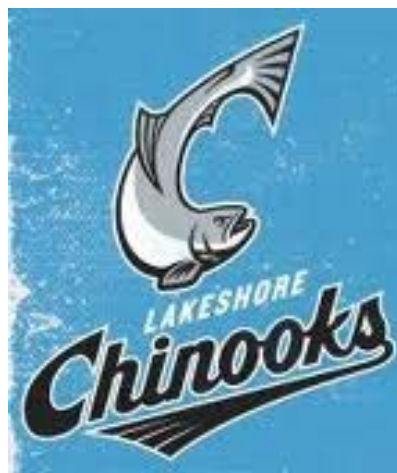
**Contact Brother Scott at
478-442-6779 for tickets and info!**

Go Fish!

**Join us for an evening of hot dogs, peanuts,
cracker jack and ...**

Baseball !

**Only
\$5.00
Per person**



**Kids
17 & Under
FREE!**



July 17, 2014 @ 6:35 pm



Kapco Park

**Concordia University
12800 N. Lake Shore Dr.
Mequon, WI**

<http://www.lakeshorechinooks.com>

RSVP to Bro. Nate at

414-405-6383

Ticket Deadline: July 1st, 8:00 am

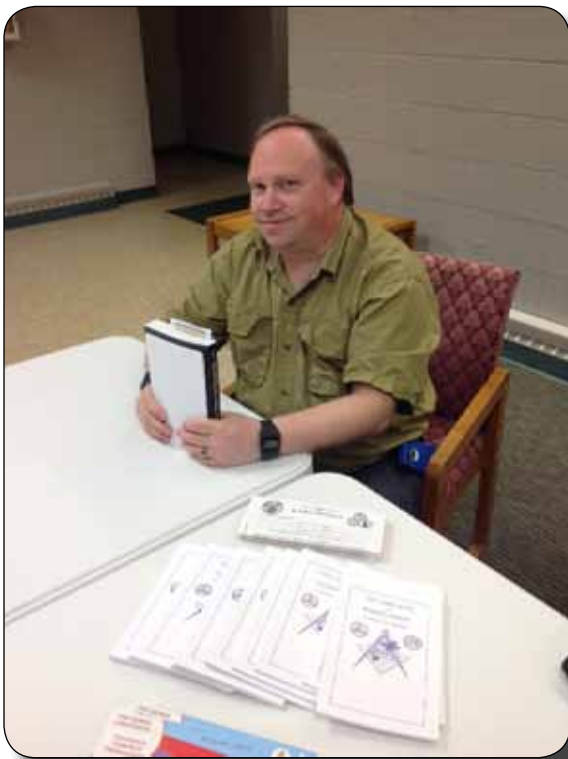
THREE NEW FELLOWCRAFTS



Pictured Above (Left to Right). Bro. Jason Sliwa, W. Bro. Mick Olson, Bro. Tim Bauer and Bro. Robert Bertram.

MISC. LODGE PHOTOS

Worshipful Master Mick and Brothers serving the Job's Daughters of Bethel #6 Breakfast.



Junior Warden Nathan Butts working, while Worshipful Master Mick, guarded by Senior Steward Brian Bertram relax after a filling meal at the recent Lake Lodge Spaghetti Dinner.



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

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.