



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

THE TRESTLEBOARD

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BY THE PLUMB

“Hidden Treasure and other Masonic Secrets”

Conspiracy theories abound all around our craft. Hidden treasures, hidden cities, rituals and rites of passage, even world domination are but a few “secrets” we as Masons are purported to hide from prying eyes and the outside world. While I generally have fun with people when they ask me “Do you guys really own the Federal Treasury?” by responding “Of course we do! That is why I live in a two room shack with holes in the roof, no windows, and drive a ’58 Buick with an engine that belches enough smoke to conceal it and be reported as a UFO with no floorboards”, the time has come to add even more confusion to an already suspecting world by revealing the secrets of A Master Mason.

Nicolas Cage followed clues worldwide to find the secrets of A Master Mason. Countless hours (one and a half hours on television to be precise) were spent uncovering clues and traveling the globe in the National Treasure films before he found the secrets of A Master Mason, became the hero, and win the girl. Noah Wiley also spent countless hours (one and a half hours as did Nicolas Cage) to find a mysterious Masonic artifact for the Library. He became a Master Mason when a guardian of the artifact noticed a medallion imprinted with the Square and Compasses given to him by his mother. The guardian of course immediately proclaimed Noah Wiley to “Now be a Masonic Brother and Master Mason”. If it were only that easy, right? In the end, he finds the secrets of A Master Mason, becomes the hero, and wins the girl.

Since most of us are either married or have girlfriends, I would not recommend winning the girl as I’m sure that would be very heavily frowned upon and likely not good for our health. However, let’s give a little thought to hidden treasures, hidden cities, and rituals and rites of passage.

It is said that once in every lifetime, and if you are lucky enough, a friend comes along that is a true friend. One who has and always will be there when you need a shoulder, stick up for you even when you are wrong, and give council although you do not want to hear it. A friend is one who strives to improve himself in all aspects of life and then challenges you to keep up. My best friend is Phil who would step in front of a train for me if he thought I needed it and of course that train track goes both ways.

Continued on page 5.

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

-  *Upcoming Degrees*
-  *By the Plumb*
-  *Master’s Message*
-  *Upcoming Events*
-  *Counselor’s Corner*
-  *Miscellanea*
-  *Renn Faire*
-  *Jobie Softball*
-  *DL290 Mini Golf Open*

JUNE 2010						
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			

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- 6/4 -6/5 - Grand Lodge - Madison
- 6/8 - Stated Meeting -Dinner-6pm, Lodge Opens 7pm
- 6/15 - Jobie Softball and Ice Cream - 7:50pm
- 6/22 - Fellowcraft Degrees - 6pm Dinner, Lodge 7pm
- 7/11 - Zoofari - 10:30am
- 7/13 - Special Communication
- 7/18 - DL290 Mini Golf Open - 3pm
- 7/27 - Special Communication
- 8/10 - Special Communication
- 8/22 - Renainnace Faire - 10am
- 8/24 - Special Communication

MISCELLANEA

“The Character of a Freemason” From the Farmer’s Almanac, 1823 Andover, Massachusetts

The real Freemason is distinguished from the rest of Mankind by the uniform unrestrained rectitude of his conduct. Other men are honest in fear of punishment which the law might inflict; they are religious in expectation of being rewarded, or in dread of the devil, in the next world. A Freemason would be just if there were no laws, human or divine except those written in his heart by the finger of his Creator. In every climate, under every system of religion, he is the same. He kneels before the Universal Throne of God in gratitude for the blessings he has received and humble solicitation for his future protection. He venerates the good men of all religions. He disturbs not the religion of others. He restrains his passions, because they cannot be indulged without injuring his neighbor or himself. He gives no offense, because he does not choose to be offended. He contracts no debts which he is certain he cannot discharge, because he is honest upon principle.”

3 TIMES 3’ - In ancient times the Entered Apprentice Degree was alone prevalent amongst the generality of our Lodges; for no Brothers could be passed and raised except in the Grand Lodge, and few availed themselves of the privilege. Hence they had only one sign, one token, and one word, and these three constituted the honors. But the members of the Grand Lodge had three signs, three tokens, and three words, and therefore, three times three were appropriately termed the Grand Honors.



Coming Sunday

July 18, 2010

3:00 P.M.

Watch for further details!

THE MASTER'S MESSAGE



Worshipful Master
Larry Chadderdon

Brethren,

June is upon us and my year as Master is half over. It has been "interesting" so far. I have learned much and expect that I shall learn even more as the rest of the year progresses. Early in this month several of us will be attending Grand Lodge as your representatives. Later in the month we will be attending a Job's Daughters softball game, rooting on all the girls, having fun and more than likely, making complete fools of ourselves to the amusement of all involved.

Over this summer we will be holding specials on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays for the purposes of examinations and degree work. Also this summer we will be having several events. Those being our annual Mini Golf outing and our Bristol Renaissance Faire outing. Check out the flyers in this issue. More details to follow.

Enjoy your Summer and I hope to see you at some of our events.

Until next month brothers.
Larry Chadderdon WM



2010 LODGE OFFICERS

Worshipful Master

Larry Chadderdon
6409 W. Beloit, West Allis, WI 53219

worshipful.master@dl290.org
H 414-935-2708
C 414-897-3730

Senior Warden

Lloyd A. Wilson
3571 S. 34th Street, Greenfield, WI 53221-1122

senior.warden@dl290.org
H 414-315-0136

Junior Warden

Michael Fairbanks (Sandra)
2169 W. St. Johns Way, Oak Creek, WI 53154

junior.warden@dl290.org
H 414-304-0260
C 414-397-0330

Treasurer

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

treasurer@dl290.org
H 414-541-3087

Secretary

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

secretary@dl290.org
C 262-853-5631
H 262-821-4495

Chaplain Donald O'Kray

Junior Deacon Jon Syverson

Junior Steward Nate Butts

Tiler Dale R. Graeven, P.M.

Senior Deacon Sean Schult

Senior Steward Matthew Wright

Counselor Mick Olson, P.M. 414-397-3076

Degree Director Michael B. Meyer, P.M.



JOBIE SOFTBALL!

COMING IN
JULY!!



SPECIAL COMMUNICATIONS

Damascus Lodge will be having Special Communications for the purpose of examinations and Degree Work during the summer, on July 13th, July 27th, August 10 and August 24th.

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

Be the Example

As Masons we are often looked upon as leaders. George Washington, Ben Franklin and many more of our Brethren, past and present, have been called upon to lead.

As Masons, we are taught to lead by example. Our lambskin reminds us of the purity of life required to gain admission into the Grand Lodge above. The plumb admonishes us to walk uprightly in our several stations before God and man. The working tools of our craft not only teach us how to act, but how to lead.

During my time in the military, I saw Officers who demanded respect from their men. They ruled with a heavy hand and in turn received the appearance of respect. And then there were those who went about their duties with quiet confidence, laboring as hard, if not harder than their subordinates. These were true leaders who were truly respected by their men. Leaders who lived the example of who and what we should be. Men who earned the respect accorded them.

Masons are often called upon for leadership, whether in service to our country, our community, or our Lodge. When we are called, it is our duty to lead like Masons. To set the example, ever striving to emulate those great Masonic leaders of our past who made our craft, and our country, something we all love dearly.

BY THE PLUMB CONTINUED.....

Whoever coined the phrase “once in a lifetime a friend comes along” was not a Mason, nor could he have known about Freemasonry. If they had known anything at all, then they would have included “unless you are a Mason” in the phrase. They would have known that making good men better would only be the entry way into a hidden world of societal improvement. They would have known the hidden treasures of self esteem and confidence are really more than feeling good about flipping 14 cents of change into the Salvation Army Kettle at Christmas time. They would have known that the rituals and rites of passage are nothing more than a play or skit to further embed the lessons of friendship and brotherly love.

With the help and support of the Lodge, new Masons begin a journey of improvement. Moreover, once begun, the journey takes a direction of its own and the journey becomes a never ending but enjoyable path of improvement. Each Mason’s secret may be different. How he improves himself, how he arrives at being a better man, his own approach to a better life is what builds his secret.

My secret is that while I have improved myself as a man, I have met many more ‘Phil’s’, all Masonic brothers who would travel both ways on that two way track to help me improve and provide me assistance in any situation. When we as Damascus Brethren meet, the tenants of brotherly love, friendship, and respect hang in the air like a heavy fog on the ocean coast. Hearing long time Brothers talk about their journeys and how their lives have improved only serves to drive me to put forth my best effort in everything I do.

As a Mason, my hidden treasures are all of you, my Brethren. My hidden cities are all of the Lodges that are available for me to attend and enjoy friendship and brotherly love. My rite of passage is any respect given me from my Brothers. And there you have it -- The Secrets of A Master Mason.

The world is full of Mater Masons who each have their own secret as to how he arrived at and improved himself as a man through Masonry. What is your secret as A Master Mason?

Michael Fairbanks
Junior Warden



BRISTOL
RENAISSANCE
FAIRE

Sunday, August 22, 2010

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

Come join us at The Faire!!

Join us for...

At the Scottish Rite

**FOOD!
FUN!
FOOD!
ADVENTURE!
FOOD!**

ZooFari!

At the Milwaukee County Zoo on July 11th!

Damascus Brothers and immediate family: \$10.00 adults, \$5.00 child. Guests welcome: \$19.99 adults, \$9.99 child.

Includes: Zoo admission, food, parking, food, ice cream, food, beverage, food, access to our picnic area, and food. Don't forget to bring your cameras for a photo contest hosted by Bro. Curt Campagna, to be later judged by our ladies!

RSVP to Bro. Sean Schult by June 22nd!

senior.deacon@dl290.org or (414) 469-0305.



THE MASTER TAKING A STROLL AT THE PEDIATRIC STROKE WALK



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.



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

Dale A. Graeven, P.M. (2010) 414-764-8187
Patrick J. Militzer, P.M. (2011) 414-469-9804
Jon Syverson (2012)

SICK AND VISITATION CHAIRPERSON

Lloyd Wilson 414-315-0136

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.

OUR NEWEST FELLOWCRAFT

