



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

# THE TRESTLEBOARD

Volume IX, Issue 6

June 2012



## KNIFE AND FORK DEGREE

The food was awesome and the fellowship was legendary! The First Ever Damascus Knife and Fork degree was a wonderful time had by all. No one left with an empty stomach or empty handed. A special thank you to all the brethren that helped out with setting up the Lodge before hand and cleaning up afterwards, this event could not have been a success without you.

## WATCH OUT!!!!!!

The boys of Damascus Lodge are hitting the links in an attempt to redeem themselves from the shellacking they received by the ladies on the mini-golf course last year. Of course there were many excuses offered, "We're not used to hitting the ball strategically, we're used to just bashing the heck out of it!" "It was the wind that made my ball sail into the duck pond - honest." "Who cares if I'm on hole #4 and my ball went into the cup on hole #7, it still counts right?" Despite the excuses given for the golf game, there should be no excuse for missing this fun filled event. Come out to the River Falls Family Fun Center at 5401 W. Layton on June 10th at 2:30 pm and be amazed at the skills displayed by the boys of Damascus Lodge. Sure, you could span the globe looking for a better variety of sports.....the thrill of victory....or the agony of defeat, but you'll never find the fun, the folly and the laughter that we have when we all get together. No matter who wins, come and enjoy some championship pizza at the Organ Piper afterwards. The price for this event will be the same as last year, \$10 for Damascus members and immediate family and \$20 for guests. Give Brian Bertram a call at 414-486-0806 for tickets and info.

## WHAT DO YOU CALL AN ANT FROM OVERSEAS? ...IMPORTANT - HA!

Know what is very important to Damascus Lodge? FAMILY! Without the love and support from our families, we couldn't do what we do. So on July 29th we're celebrating our families with the Damascus Family Picnic at Wilson Park, Picnic Area #1, from 11 am till they tell us to go home. Hamburgers, brats and hotdogs will be provided by the Lodge, but this is also a Pot-Luck event. Throughout history, people have been getting together for family events and each time some favorite family recipes have been shared. Please bring a dish from that old family recipe book for your extended Masonic family to experience. Two signup sheets will be passed around the lodge; one for food/drinks and another for those who are willing to bring some of the necessities. Give Tom Stach a call at 414-207-5668, or send him an email at [tstach@wi.rr.com](mailto:tstach@wi.rr.com) to let him know you'll be coming and what you plan on bringing. And don't forget to bring your baseball glove!!

## TO THE ZOO

The Valley of Milwaukee, Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite is having their annual Zoofari event at the Milwaukee County Zoo. This is a wonderful activity for the entire family and Damascus Lodge has elected to help out with costs. Members of the Lodge only pay \$10 for you and your lady - admission for the children of our members is on the Lodge. Book your tickets for this wonderful event with Brother Tom Tinney by email at [tylersofthe9@yahoo.com](mailto:tylersofthe9@yahoo.com) or by giving him a call at 623-455-2613.

### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

-  *Mini Golf*
-  *Master's Message*
-  *Upcoming Events*
-  *Counselor's Corner*
-  *Knife & Fork*
-  *Zoofari*

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## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

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- June 1st through the 2nd – Grand Lodge of Wisconsin Annual Communication  
 June 5th – Scottish Rite Installation of Officers – 7pm  
 June 10th – The Damascus Mini-Golf Classic, 51st and Layton Ave, 2:30pm.  
 June 12th – Stated Meeting with Masters Board before hand, have your interviews ready. Dinner starts at 6pm.  
 June 13th – 15th : York Rite Grand Sessions in Green Bay  
 June 26th – EA Degree. Dinner starts at 6pm

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## MASONIC MILESTONES

Harold R. Lewitzke – 74 years

Herbert F. Walther – 54 years

Richard H. Feest – 54 years

Robert H. Acton – 54 years

Irvin S. Behrendt – 37 years

Congratulations Brothers!!!!

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## COUNSELOR'S CORNER

It was great to see at our May Stated Meeting, our E.A.'s and F.C.'s turn out for dinner and a bit of study time.

Remember now, the lore of yesteryear. How many of us can say “Hey, that’s the opening to the Lone Ranger”? How many of us used to yell at the T.V. “Tonto, don’t go to town”? Bill Cosby once pointed out that Tonto should never go to town because inevitably he would be caught and beat up by the bad guys. But ever faithful to the Lone Ranger, Tonto would always go into town to gather information and have the snort knocked out of him in the name of “Truth, Right, Fair play, and Justice”.

The hero in most movies and shows, have some sort of loyal follower willing to sacrifice for the fight against evil. The Lone Ranger had Tonto, Batman had Robin, Superman had Lois Lane, The Green Hornet had Kato; just to name a few. Now let’s put this in the Masonic Lodge vernacular.

In Freemasonry, there are no hero’s, there are no such things as shining stars, or standouts; only Masons who meet on the level and work hard to relieve distress and aid anyone who needs help. Our Craft as a whole, with all of our tenets and principals is the Light we seek as Entered Apprentices and we as Masons are the rays that provide that light. Our Rule and Guide provides the wisdom and knowledge which enforces our moral compasses and standards and we as Masons whisper good council into attentive ears based on all of the tenets of Freemasonry.

Freemasonry; our tenets, our tools, and our furniture could be looked upon as our leader and we as members of our Lodges are the sidekicks or followers. As loyal followers of the Craft and our Lodge, it can be said that we work hard and make a few sacrifices.

We also need to remember that our wives and significant others make huge sacrifices so that we can go to Lodge and attend Lodge functions. They are, in a sense loyal and dedicated followers of the Craft by simply supporting us in our Lodge endeavors. To the Ladies and our families; Thank YOU.

“Look Tonto, an open Lodge. Hope they have dinner”...HI HYO SILLLLLLLVER – HAWAAAAAAAAY...

See you in Lodge... Be there AND be square.

Michael Fairbanks, P.M. Counselor

## THE MASTER'S MESSAGE



It's June and what do you know? Summer is finally here. Wait a minute, now the weather is cold again. Nope, now it's warm again. Oops, now it's raining – good ol' reliable Wisconsin weather! And I must say, the brothers at Damascus have been just as reliable. I know there are some of you that might be saying or thinking, "Matt, that's really not a complement." To that I say, "How can that not be a complement?" True, the weather in Wisconsin changes often, but that is just one aspect of the weather – that's not looking at the entire picture. Try looking at the weather in a different way. For instance, if it's cloudy when you go to work, have faith that the good ol' Wisconsin weather will change like it always has in the past and there's good chance the sky to be sunny by the time you get out of work. Just change your perspective. I do the same thing with the brothers of Damascus. There are some days when things are looking rather gloomy before the stated meeting or degree begins, but as the night progresses, I have faith that the great fellowship from my brothers will make the grey skies clear and I have yet to be disappointed.

I'll be honest, it's hard for me to believe it's already June. It seems like the Sweethearts Brunch in February was just last week. Time is flying by fast. By the time you read this, the Free and Accepted Masons of Wisconsin will have a new Grand Master, the installation ceremony of Grand Lodge Officers will have gone off with a bang and the entire weekend was a joyous occasion had by many. However, this year is different. This year Damascus Lodge has some bragging rights and we could not be prouder. This year one of our own beloved Past Masters, Michael Fairbanks, has been appointed an Area Administrator for the Milwaukee Area. We know he will do an outstanding job and we wish him tons of success in his new role. Congratulations Suga Lump!!

Soon after the Annual Communication, many Lodges plan to go dark for the summer. This is not the case for Damascus Lodge. This summer we plan on moving forward, full steam ahead and we're going to have a good time while we're at it. We have the Damascus Mini-Golf Open and an EA degree in the pipeline for June; the Zoofari at the Milwaukee County Zoo and the Damascus Family Picnic in July; and the Bristol Renaissance Fair in August. These are some great events and we look forward to seeing you there.

Finally, I hope everyone has an excellent summer. I'm looking forward to the warmer weather sticking around for longer than a few hours, riding my motorcycle and attending the many family events scheduled this summer. I hope to see many of you there.

Matt Wright  
Worshipful Master



**Coming Sunday**  
**June 10, 2012**  
**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. 108<sup>th</sup> St., Greenfield**



**Tickets:**

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

**Deadline for tickets: June 4th**

**Contact Brother Bert at**  
**414-486-0806 for tickets and info!**

**RIP-ROARIN' GOOD TIME HAD BY ALL**

The Damascus Hoedown was a fun time had by all and what can we say about the food? Cookie and his crew out did themselves that's for sure! The music, the games, the families and the fellowship – what could be better? Well...let's add a few more games, a beautiful picnic area and even more food into the mix? On July 29th the Damascus Family will be having a family picnic at Wilson Park, Picnic Area #1, from 11 am till...whenever we get done. This is a Pot-Luck event and we would love for all the families to dust off those old family recipe books and brings a dish that is not only good, but meaningful to your particular family. I'm sure all of us have a favorite family dish that we either love to make or eat, so bring it for your extended family to try. We will also have a signup sheet for those "recipe-challenged" folks and for volunteers who are willing to bring some of the "necessities" along. Give Tom Stach a call at 414-207-5668, or send him an email at [tstach@wi.rr.com](mailto:tstach@wi.rr.com) to let him know you'll be coming and what you plan on bringing.

# **Damascus #290 Family Picnic**



**Hot Dogs, Brats and Burgers will be on the grill. The menu also includes a pot luck variety of scrumptious delicacies. Contact Tom Stach @ 414-207-5668 or [tstach@wi.rr.com](mailto:tstach@wi.rr.com) to RSVP and let him know what kind of dish you would like to bring.**

**(Don't forget your baseball glove)**

**Sunday July 29<sup>th</sup>**  
**Wilson Park Picnic Area #1**  
**(13<sup>th</sup> Street just south of Howard Avenue)**

## CHAPLAIN'S PEW

### THE HAT, THE SCOOTER, AND THE ATTITUDE.....

Good day Brethren, hope all is well with everyone. I need to start with an apology for my negligence in submitting articles for the trestle board as of late. It seems that life and its ups and downs, family obligations and challenges, and personal illness have caught up with me, and I hope to get back on track with this months correspondence.

Well..... the hat, the scooter, and the attitude, is quite a title for an interesting read, at least I hope so. As many know, I had a mishap with my motorcycle in March, rendering me quite useless as I have broken all the toes, separated the tissue and have had a pin placed in my left foot to hold the appendage together. My incapacity to get around, not to mention the myriad of pain killing prescription drugs I have been on, has made me aware of some troubling, and sometimes pleasant, tendencies in the modern social world.

You see about two weeks after I had surgery, I decided to go to the supermarket, as I couldn't pass up the four for ten dollar pizza deal that was advertized. As I proceeded to the counter to receive my indoctrination into the world of motorized scooters, (of which do not accommodate any mounting hardware for my crutches! Hmmm. Maybe an invention idea there!?) I realized that the employees were more than eager to assist me in my venture. As I made my way through the store, I carefully picked out my evening pizza dinner and proceed to the checkout. I soon realized that I could not remove the items from my attached basket-what a bummer! To my surprise, a kind lady and her adolescent daughter observed my dilemma and assisted me, stating that "we're all in this together". These acts of kindness, and encouraging words were a welcome gesture, and in these times, much appreciated.

All things came into perspective about a month later. My family and I decided to go to a department store for some needed items. As most do, we split up; the women went their way, and me on mine, negotiating the isles with the motor scooter (the closest thing to a motorcycle I'll be on for a while!) of which I have become a virtual Mario Andretti on by this point in time. The trip was a 'spur of the moment' decision, we left the house with my Masonic hat on, no cell phone and only a partial clue as to what I really needed there.

My trip here was disappointing to say the least. The three motorized scooters that I tried all expended their battery life about three quarter way through the store, with out any employee around to assist and my crutches at the counter; I had to try to make it to the counter for another mode of transportation. I did make it, but with noticing that some cliental that appeared fully capable of walking, were using the conveyance means that I needed. Frustrated at this development and no other power chairs, I opted for a standard wheel chair with a basket attached to the arm rests. As you can imagine, a person of my stature doesn't fit well into the wheeled devil of this sort. My patience was running low.

By now I am pushing my way through the store, desperately attempting to locate my wife and daughter for some assistance. While doing this, shoppers had no idea of the restrictions of being incapacitated and in a wheel chair. I even had at least three people run their shopping carts right into my chair. And more than a few comments and leers about the amount of "space" being occupied by me and the chair.

After locating my two saviors (Sheryl and Meagan), we finally checked out and headed home. After some reflecting on the experience in the car, and tearing up at the disrespect some people had for people with disabilities, I contemplated my reactions that day.

If you remember, I had on my Masonic baseball cap. I truly believe that being a Mason makes you a better man. I very well may have lost my cool and said something to total strangers about their attitudes, recklessness, and ogling, but my Masonic hat reminded me to stay within due bounds, circumscribe my passions, and remember that Masons are GOOD men.

My heartfelt thoughts and prayers go to all people who have the unfortunate trials of being disabled. My lessons these past two months of having restricted mobility, although minor in comparison to others, have led me to see and believe the courage and faith you have. My blessings to you all.

So.....when out and about, take some extra time to always remember to assist those less fortunate than us. The person receiving it will appreciate it and, in return, your action will last in your heart knowing you helped.

As a closing, I would like to thank all my brothers for the well wishes, assistance and yes, the ribbing you have so kindly sent my way. It is a true blessing to have brothers and friends like you all.

Fraternally  
Bro Bert

# KNIFE & FORK DEGREE





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)

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

## LODGE TRUSTEES

Mick Olson, P.M. (2012) 414-397-3076  
Dale A. Graeven, P.M. (2013) 414-764-8187  
Patrick J. Militzer, P.M. (2014) 414-469-9804

## SICK AND VISITATION CHAIRPERSON

Sean Schult 414-469-0305

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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.

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## 2012 LODGE OFFICERS

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Junior Steward Paul Peacock  
Tiler Dale R. Graeven, P.M.

Senior Deacon Steve Manthey  
Senior Steward Jason Williams  
Counselor Michael Fairbanks, P.M.