



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

# THE TRESTLEBOARD

Volume VII, Issue 7

July 2010



## BY THE PLUMB

### “What Bible do you protect?”

And so it continues: Rumor and misinformation will always be the rule and guide of people who refuse to research, or bother to ask the right people questions about our Fraternity. The question itself insinuates the possibility that we are a religion and would defend to the bitter end a particular “Bible”.

When I was asked “What Bible do you protect?” and saw that the person asking it was quite serious, there were many thoughts and answers racing through my mind. Most of the answers my brain conjured would have shown my quick wit and sarcastic talents, but seeing how serious this person was, I settled on the answer that is so obvious to those of us who are Masons. We do not “protect” Bibles. Our Fraternity uses the Holy Writings as our guide to help us govern our lives in a just and upright manner, as we walk before God and man in our several stations in life.

We refer to religious scripture or text as ‘Holy Writings’ because we accept all good men into the Fraternity, regardless of their religious beliefs. The only religious requirement to become a Mason is that a man must believe in a Supreme Being. How then do we reconcile different religions within Lodge?

The answer is simple in its complexity. We, as Masons do not judge our brothers, nor do we promote religion. We do however; encourage our Brethren to attend the church of THEIR choice. We come together as Brother Masons as one craft, under one roof, with a diversity that would have made President John F. Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King proud.

The ‘Holy Writings’ are displayed upon our altar while Lodge is in session. A Brother of the Muslim faith may see the Koran on the altar; a Christian Brother the Holy Bible, a Buddhist Brother the Buddha-Dharma. But how do we choose which ‘Holy Writings’ to open and display? Since the Worshipful Master of the Lodge is the leader of his Lodge, it is usually the Holy Writings of his faith that is displayed openly, unless he orders differently.

The one common feature that unites all of us as Brethren, regardless of our faith, is the Square and Compasses resting upon the open Holy Writings. The Square and Compasses remind us our faith, position, and standing in life, no matter who we are. That we, as Masons, are to square our actions with all people and keep our behavior circumscribed within due bounds of expected Masonic character, which is based upon the teachings of the ‘Holy Writings’.

*Continued on page 4*

### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

-  [Upcoming Degrees](#)
-  [By the Plumb](#)
-  [Master's Message](#)
-  [Upcoming Events](#)
-  [Counselor's Corner](#)
-  [Renn Faire](#)
-  [Jobie Softball](#)
-  [DL290 Mini Golf Open](#)

# JULY 2010

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

- 8/24 - Lodge - Master Mason Degree - 6pm Dinner  
7pm Lodge Opens
- 8/31 - Lodge - Master Mason Degree or Movie Night

- 9/11 - Connecticut State Patrol MM Degree  
Freemasons Lodge
- 9/14 - Stated Meeting - 6pm Dinner, 7pm Lodge
- 9/28 - DL290 Racing - See Page 6

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- 7/06 - Jobie Softball and Ice Cream - See Page 4
- 7/11 - Zoofari - 10:30am
- 7/13 - Lodge - 2 Fellowcraft Degrees - 6pm Dinner  
7pm - Lodge Opens
- 7/18 - DL290 Mini Golf Open - 3pm - See Page 5
- 7/27 - Lodge - Master Mason Degree - 6pm Dinner  
7pm Lodge Opens
- 8/10 - Lodge - Master Mason Degree - 6pm Dinner  
7pm Lodge Opens
- 8/17 - Lodge - Master Mason Degree - 6pm Dinner  
7pm Lodge Opens
- 8/22 - Renainnace Faire - 10am

## COUNSELOR'S CORNER

### Easy does it.

I was once told that a 'true friend' is someone you can call at 3:00 am and he will come to bail you out of jail. But your 'best friend' is the guy sitting next to you, who turns to you with a big grin on his face and says, "Dude! We messed up!"

I am often cautioning our newer members about getting 'too involved' in Masonry. Masonry is a balancing act. You can't do it all! I tell them that Masonry is the only organization where you can be gone every night and still miss half of what is going on.

That was me last week. Every night, Monday thru Sunday (except Thursday) I had a Masonic meeting or function to attend. THREE on Sunday! And I was not alone. As I looked around the Lodge Room each night, there were 'Damascus Men' there! Not all the same guys at every function, but there was one who was present for all but one. And many, like him talked of attending other functions that I had missed.

I am so proud to see our members getting more involved in our craft. The point I wish to make is, be careful you don't spread yourself too thin. We don't want to burn out anyone. Your calendar is your best friend. Use it! Write in it. Look at it before you make plans to go anywhere. You can't be in two places at once, no matter how good you are! Leave some time for your family and yourself.

But on those occasions where you over-do the schedule, while you are sitting there, look around that Lodge Room. There will be more than one guy sitting next to you who will turn to you with a big grin on his face and say, "Dude! We messed up!" You'll find a bunch of 'best friends' in Lodge.

See you in Lodge!

## THE MASTER'S MESSAGE



Worshipful Master  
Larry Chadderdon

Brethren,

I would just like to extend my personal invitation to everyone to our upcoming events. You will find details within this issue. But, I would especially like to invite you to our upcoming degree work. The next couple months should prove to be a lot of fun, so come and have some Damascus sized fun with your brothers.

Until next month brothers.  
Larry Chadderdon WM



*Be Lords and Ladies of Damascus,  
Join us for a day of Feast  
And Festivity!*

**BRISTOL  
RENAISSANCE  
FAIRE**

**Sunday, August 22, 2010  
10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.**

**Tickets are \$10.00 for ages 13 and up, \$6.00 for ages 5 to 12,  
Damascus Lodge members and immediate family.**

**Come when you can and leave when you must! Some activities  
and shows will be planned for the entire group.  
A schedule will be provided to those attending.**

**Contact W.M. Larry Chadderdon at  
414-935-2708 for info and tickets.**

**Deadline for tickets is August 8th!!  
Bring the whole family!!**



**Come Join Us at  
The Faire!!**

# JOBIE SOFTBALL!!



**JULY 6, 2010**  
**6:40 P.M.**



**WEST MILWAUKEE PARK, FIELD #1**

**5000 W. BURNHAM AVENUE.**

*Come and join the fun as we cheer the*  
*Daughters of Bethel #6*  
**TO VICTORY!!!**

*Build your own Sundae after the game!!*

*Please RSVP Bro. Mike "Suga" Fairbanks at*  
**[mfairbanks@wi.rr.com](mailto:mfairbanks@wi.rr.com)**

**IT'S FREE!!!**

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BY THE PLUMB.... CONTINUED....

Rosa Parks in December, 1955 touched off the Civil Rights movement by refusing to give her seat to a white man under the order of a bus driver. President John F. Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King then began to prominently advocate a wild and unheard of notion of 'equality among all men'. Imagine that, all men equal, what a concept. Wait a minute! Masons have been meeting on the level since somewhere around 1710. Based upon the 'Holy Writings', this is nothing new to Masons.

Rather than 'protect a Bible', we open the 'Holy Writings' as a guide to spread the cement of brotherly love. When the subject of equality amongst men arose in the 1950's, John F. Kennedy (Catholic) and Dr. Martin Luther King (Baptist) set aside their religious differences, openly discussed and then resolved the issues at hand. They did no Bible 'protecting', just reading.

I daresay and suggest that we as Masons promote and encourage Brotherly Love, regardless of which 'Holy Writings' we use as our moral compass. Our unity is not a unity because of a specific 'Bible' or 'Holy Writing'. Our unity is through, and by the Square and Compasses resting upon the open 'Holy Writings', serving as a reminder of our morals and values as Masons.

**Coming Sunday**  
**July 18, 2010**  
**3:00 P.M.**

**Bring the whole family!**

**Join the Damascus Lodge family as we spend the  
afternoon locked in mortal combat!!  
Okay, it's just mini-golf... But this is SERIOUS!!**

**Green Fields Golf Center**  
**10600 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: July 11th**

**Contact Brother Sean Schult at  
414-469-0305 for tickets and info!**

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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, August 17, August 24th and August 31.

**Tuesday, Tuesday, Tuesday!**

**Meet all your favorite drivers at the**

**“Damascus 290”**

**Our meeting on Sept. 28th will be held at:**

**Lucky BOBs   
Raceway**

**5822 West Forest Home Ave.**

**Join us for a night of Racing and Fellowship!**

**Exciting racing from 6-8 p.m.!!**

**Enjoy PIZZA after the Main Event!!**

**Entry fee is only \$10.00!!**

**Call Bro. Matt Wright, 414-254-5677 to reserve your car!**

**Bring a prospective member!!**

**BE THERE!!**

**Or be Sean!**



CONGRATULATIONS BROTHER MICHAEL MEYER  
ON A SUCCESSFUL YEAR AS GRAND HIGH PRIEST

MOST EXCELLENT COMPANION  
**MICHAEL B. MEYER**



YOUR BROTHERS AT  
DAMASCUS LODGE NO. 290  
CONGRATULATE YOU  
ON A GREAT YEAR AS

**GRAND HIGH PRIEST OF  
ROYAL ARCH MASONS  
IN WISCONSIN**



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](http://www.dl290.org)  
Email: [worshipful.master@dl290.org](mailto:worshipful.master@dl290.org)

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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

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

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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.

## OUR NEWEST FELLOWCRAFTS

