



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

# THE TRESTLEBOARD

Volume XI, Issue VII

July 2014



## BACON!

Thanks to all who came and supported our Knife and Fork Degree on June 30th. While our crowd was a bit small, we made up for the lack in number with quality. Great Brothers and great food were the hallmark of the day.

This was the third year for our Knife and Fork Degree. All who attend enjoy the night and we make it better every year. Last year we introduced the pin and membership card, and this year we had Brother Khristian Kay speak on the 47th problem of Euclid. Who knows what we'll do next year, but it is sure to be great!

Thank you to all who came to support our charity for this year, the Wisconsin ALS Society. It is an honor to support this group and all they do for those suffering from the debilitating disease.

## TAKE TWO!

On June 24th we had our second movie night of the year. Nothing beats a great night of fellowship, eating a great meal and enjoying a good movie, together. The theme was 'cops and robbers' and the location was Italy. The night began with a hearty meal of Mama Mia's Lasagna and Garlic Bread. My arteries are still clogged from all the butter! Delicious!

We then enjoyed 'Hudson Hawk', a comedic action movie from the 80s starring Bruce Willis. Lots of action and more than anticipated humor made this a perfect choice for a 'guy's night out'. And what better place to enjoy the night than right here at Damascus Lodge. We also hosted a few guests. If you were unable to join us, be sure to do so next time. You won't want to miss it again.

## JOBIE SOFTBALL

Join us on July 15th as we make our annual trip to watch Jobie Baseball...and eat icecream. We meet at 7:30 pm to enjoy 'build your own sundaes' with the girls, and then relax and enjoy the game. This is always a fun evening with the girls so be sure to join us for the evening at the KK Sports Center, 3070 So. 20th St., Milwaukee

## TRAINING

On August 26th we will hold another Lodge Officer Training Session. As always, officers are expected to attend, but all are welcome to come and learn with us. We will review a couple of topics and get to work on the budget and planning a yearly calendar of events. A full year of activities doesn't just happen, it takes planning and organization. So be sure to join us and even give your thoughts on events for the upcoming years. We are always looking for new activities for our members to enjoy.

A light dinner will be served at 6:00 pm, with training commencing at 6:45 pm. Bring your Officers handbooks, paper and writing implements. And your appetite, for food and knowledge.

### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

-  *Go Fish*
-  *Master's Message*
-  *MM Degree*
-  *Lodge Training*
-  *Like Us*
-  *DL 290 Racing*
-  *Chaplain's Corner*
-  *Masonic Declaration*
-  *Ren Faire*

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS FOR 2014

| Date   | Event                               |        |                                     |
|--------|-------------------------------------|--------|-------------------------------------|
| Jul 8  | Stated Meeting 6pm Dinner 7pm Lodge | Aug 9  | Renaissance Faire (F&F)             |
| Jul 15 | Jobie Softball                      | Aug 12 | Stated Meeting 6pm Dinner 7pm Lodge |
| Jul 17 | Go Fish!! Baseball Game (F&F)       |        |                                     |
| Jul 22 | Special Meeting 6pm Dinner 7pm MM   |        | (F&F) family and friends invited    |

### CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Recently I've had cause to read the words "Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!" (Psalms 133). These are words that I've heard many times before, as every Mason has heard at some point, but I've never taken a moment to consider what this passage beyond the superficial, plain text reading that good company is fun. While certainly that interpretation is tough to argue, there must be a more substantial reason for this phrase to be included in our trestle board.

By gathering as a group of individuals sharing a common bond, we reinforce each other's sense of values, allowing us to grow in our convictions and faith. It helps to focus on what's important, rather than getting pulled down into all of the superfluities of daily life. It fosters a sense of community among us, and gives each other the opportunity to celebrate and be thankful for each others' successes or to lend a sympathetic ear or helping hand to a brother who is struggling. Simply put, as iron sharpens iron, one man sharpens another.

As the summer months fly by, and we all get busy, please keep all of the upcoming events and lodge gatherings in mind, and encourage others to attend as well. While on the surface it may seem like a bunch of guys getting together for the fun of it, we're really doing so much more.

Bro. Matt Hanchek

### DIALOGUE WITH A CURIOUS FRIEND

In lieu of a lengthy article, I just thought I'd share this conversation I had via text message with a friend of mine, because it caused me to reflect on a few things.

Friend: Hey Scott, I'm reading this book about religion and the presidency and it casually mentioned Masons. Remind me of what the definition of Masons is?

Suga3: A Mason is a member of an ancient worldwide fraternity which promotes making good men better through the practice of moral principles. Honesty, fidelity, diligence, virtue, and prudence to name a few...

Friend: It's not technically considered a religion, although in some ways (for example, having a moral code) people may consider it such, correct?

Suga3: That has been a source of confusion forever...I would disagree, but I understand how one could see it that way. But remember, these principles are not specific to one certain religion. Remember also that we live in a post-modern relativistic society, where for the first time in history, society has refused to distinguish clearly between good and evil. In other words, these principles had always been considered moral absolutes until our post-modern era. For example, even atheists believe that murder is wrong, not because of any religious loyalties, but because these are common sense moral absolutes. There actually used to be many more such absolutes, and it is those tenants upon which our fraternity is founded...

The conversation steered away from this topic shortly thereafter, but it got me to thinking. Call me a pessimist, but one thought was prevalent: How sad are the current state of affairs in our world that so many people have such a hard time distinguishing between a fraternity and religions, simply on the grounds that both contain members who adhere to moral principles? Is the world so lacking of principled men that all principled men are just lumped together as one-and-the-same in the minds of our contemporaries? Society has turned what used to be moral imperatives into a mere matter of preference. Therefore, how much more important is it to our craft, and more importantly to the world around us, that we continue to clearly distinguish ourselves as men who won't stray from those principles? Just some food for thought...

Bro. Scott Fairbanks - Junior Deacon

**Masonic Education**

Greetings, Brethren!

We've had a great summer thus far! Our mini-golf event was very well attended and our Knife and Fork Degree was a success. And we just enjoyed another Damascus Movie Night! I thank everyone who has been attending the Lodge events this year. A special thanks to the Officers who have been working hard to organize these events and provide the opportunity for us to come together as a family. Well done, Brethren!

We have made much progress this year, and I thank all the Officers and Brethren who have 'climbed on board' and helped us get the Lodge headed in a new direction. There has been much work to do and I am proud of your efforts and service to our Brethren.

I was very pleased by the heartfelt and honest discussion that took place at our last meeting. Every Lodge meets challenges, and those Lodges that meet those challenges together will be made all the stronger. We had a respectful and productive discussion culminating in an agreed upon course of action. I thank you for your time and consideration.



One of the goals this year has been education; Masonic education for the members as well as basic education for the Officer Corps. Simple tasks of how to organize a lodge event are often taken for granted. We often assume things 'just happen' and don't really understand that each officer has responsibilities to accomplish certain tasks. And if those tasks are accomplished by all, while being far from the truth, it does appear as if everything 'just happened'. This is the sign of a well functioning organization.

We are also focusing on Masonic education. One of our Brothers, while traveling to another Lodge was asked if he had read the Masonic Code. When he replied he had not, he was told that you can't be much of a Mason if you don't know the code. While we have touched on the Masonic Code in our training, if asked the same question I would have told the other Brother he was wrong.

The first, and simplest point is that each Grand Lodge has its own code, often times greatly different than that of other jurisdictions. Am I less of a Mason because I don't know the Masonic Code of Ohio? The Masonic Code is a set of rules by which a Lodge ought to be run. And a key word here is 'ought'. There are times when the Code cannot be followed verbatim, but we must always follow its intent.

I would also ask, since our Masonic Code is readily available to the public, if my sister reads and memorizes the code, does that make her a good Mason? Hmmmm.....

Brethren, I will whole heartedly agree that a working knowledge of our Masonic Code makes you a better Officer, or even Lodge member. I will argue that it does NOT make you a better Mason. As Bro. Paul taught us, the Book of Constitutions does not refer to the Masonic Code. What truly makes you a better Mason is found in our ritual. There, the beauties of Freemasonry are unfolded. We are reminded of the cardinal virtues, our basic tenets, and our obligations to our Brethren and our God. We are taught to apply the working tools of Masonry to our everyday lives; and when we give the word we are reminded of the five points of fellowship which should always rule and guide our conduct with our Brethren.

I am disheartened when I hear Brethren espousing their personal beliefs over those of our gentle craft. To question another's Masonic credibility simply because he does not read a code book, or agree with your opinion is not the act of a true Mason. To stand by and allow any 'attack' on a Brother's character is equally displeasing. As Masons we are taught to 'vindicate a Brother's character as well behind his back as before his face'. As men of God we are taught to 'judge not, lest ye be judged'. As Master Masons we are taught a good Mason is one who 'best can work, and best agree'.

*Continued on Page 4.....*

## THE MASTER'S MESSAGE CONTINUED...

From Page 3

Brethren, our work is to be better men and better Masons. We should concentrate on bettering ourselves, thus improving our families, our Lodge and our community. We won't always agree, but we must never let pettiness and stubbornness intrude into our refuge. We must discuss our differences with mutual respect, and once discussed, our Lodge is where we should put aside our differences and come together.

See you in Lodge,

Mick Olson, Worshipful Master

# Jobie Softball!!



**July 15, 2014**  
**6:40 p.m.**



**KK Sports Center**  
**3070 So. 20<sup>th</sup> St.**

*Come and join the fun as we cheer the*  
*Daughters of Bethel #6*  
**To Victory!!!**

*Build your own Sundae after the game!!*

*Please **RSVP** W. Bro. Mick at*  
**Mick290@att.net**

**It's Free!!!**

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

BRISTOL  
RENAISSANCE  
FAIRE

Sunday, August 9, 2014  
10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Tickets are \$10.00 for ages 13 and up, \$5.00 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 Brother Scott Fairbanks at  
478-442-6779 for info and tickets.

Deadline for tickets is July 21, 2014!!  
Bring the whole family!!



Come Join Us at  
The Faire!!

## A MASONIC DECLARATION ?

On July 4th, 2014 our nation celebrated the 238th anniversary of the ratification of the Declaration of Independence, which announced to the world that the thirteen colonies considered themselves independent sovereign states, no longer part of the British empire, but instead the United States of America.

Did you know that there were nine known Masonic signers of the Declaration? Benjamin Franklin of PA, John Hancock of MA, William Ellery of RI, Joseph Hewes of NC, William Hooper of NC, Robert Treat Paine of MA, Richard Stockton of NJ, George Walton of GA, and William Whipple of NH have all been confirmed as being Freemasons.

Although the Declaration of Independence is mainly about announcing our independence from Great Britain, the formation of the United States of America, and a justification by listing the colonies' grievances against King George III, there are several Masonic principles included in this famous document.

Two of them, a belief in Deity and all men are equal, are included in one of the most famous quotes in the Declaration: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

In the closing paragraph, there are a few more such as: Invoking the blessing of Deity, rectitude of conduct, and a faithful reliance on divine Providence. "We, therefore, the Representatives of the United States of America, in General Congress, Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the Name, and by the Authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly publish and declare, That these United Colonies are and of Right out to be Free and Independent States; that they are Absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain, is and ought to be totally dissolved; and that as Free and Independent States, they have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and do all other Acts and Things which Independent States may of right do. And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor."

If our Founding Fathers could live and die by these principles, how could we as good Masons do anything but live by them also?

Bro. Paul Peacock  
Senior Deacon

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## M.M. DEGREE JULY 22

On July 22nd we will be conferring the Master Mason Degree upon our very deserving Brother, Tim Bauer. Tim has worked very hard to get to this point and we hope you will come to support him on this very important day.

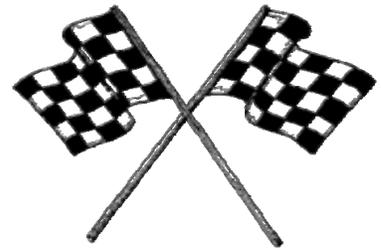
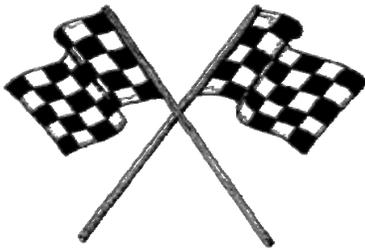
## LIKE US !

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!!

**Tuesday, Tuesday, Tuesday!**

Meet all your favorite drivers at the  
**“Damascus 290”**



**Our meeting on Sept. 23rd 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. Paul Peacock, 617-5341 or [innphx2@yahoo.com](mailto:innphx2@yahoo.com) to  
reserve your car! Bring a prospective member!!



**BE THERE!!**





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

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

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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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## 2014 LODGE OFFICERS

Worshipful Master  
Charles 'Mick' Olson, P.M. [worshipful.master@dl290.org](mailto:worshipful.master@dl290.org)

Senior Warden  
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Junior Warden  
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Treasurer  
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Secretary  
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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.