



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

THE TRESTLEBOARD

Volume XI, Issue VIII

August 2014



NEW MASTER MASON

Congratulations to Brother Tim Bauer on being raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason. Since Tim loves Mexican food, the night started with the world famous Damascus Lodge Taco Bar. Tijuana has nothing on our kitchen crew as we enjoyed great Tacos and trimmings. There was a notable lull in the conversation as we all enjoyed a terrific meal.

Tim's Degree was the usual outstanding ritual work we have come to expect at Damascus. Our Officers knocked it out of the park... figuratively speaking. Tim was duly impressed and thanked all for the effort to give him a very memorable night as he continues his Masonic Journey.

Congratulations to Brother Tim, our outstanding Officer Corps, and our Lodge. Brother Tim no doubt will be a very valuable addition to our Damascus family and we look forward to seeing him, and his beautiful family at our Damascus Lodge events. Welcome Brother!

GO FISH!

On July 17th, thirty-one Damascus Lodge family members descended on Kapco Field and cheered the Lakeshore Chinooks to a shut-out victory over the Green Bay Bullfrogs. It was a perfect night for baseball with hazy sunshine and temperatures in the low 70s. A light breeze off Lake Michigan kept the bugs away and we got rowdy cheering the home team.

The Team Mascot, Gill quickly caught on that we were going to make his life easy as we got loud and cheered until our voices were hoarse. Gill grabbed a seat with us for a photo op and when it came time to make noise for a free pizza, well...being the good Damascus men we are, there was no competition as Gill delivered a fresh pizza for our crew to enjoy. And it tasted even better since it was free!

The kids got autographs and ate the traditional baseball snacks as everyone enjoyed a great game, good food and wonderful fellowship. It was a perfect night for baseball with a perfect group of friends. Kudos Brother Nate for a fine outing full of...perfection!

TRAINING, SIR!

Attention all Officers, and any Brethren who would like to be Officers! We will be conducting Lodge Officer Training on August 26th. Dinner will be served at 6:00 pm with training to commence at 6:45. We will be discussing Lodge Finances, Budget, Programming and recapping the first half of this year. This is a great opportunity to learn how the Lodge functions, even if you don't plan to be an Officer. Officers are expected to attend and all members are welcome to take part in this opportunity to learn.

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

-  *Fish Fans*
-  *Master's Message*
-  *MM Degree*
-  *Halloween*
-  *Past Masters Dinner*
-  *DL 290 Racing*
-  *Chaplain's Corner*

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS FOR 2014

Aug 9	Renaissance Faire (F&F)	Aug 12	Stated Meeting 6pm Dinner 7pm Lodge (F&F) family and friends invited
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CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Learning To Pray

I've never been particularly comfortable publicly discussing matters of faith, or even praying out loud. The irony of being asked to serve this year as the Lodge Chaplain is not lost on me.

To explain, I'm a layperson with no training beyond basic Sunday school as a child. Frankly, I don't have the first clue if I've ever learned to do this right in the first place. Prior to taking on this role, I've never given serious thought to what it means to pray, why we do it, or how. The possible exception of someday teaching my kids notwithstanding, I never had the slightest inclination toward faith being anything other than a private thing between me and my God.

As I've stumbled through this, the best guidance I've ever found on this subject has been in my Trestle board, in Matthew: Chapter 6, particularly verses 5-7. Paraphrasing (poorly), the advice, at least as I've come to understand it, is to do your best to avoid the hypocrisy of praying for appearance sake, vanity, or mindless repetition. There are no bonus points for length, poetic language, or formality. The important thing is building on your relationship with your God. Keep it simple and to the point.

At its simplest, I've come to believe that any good prayer can be boiled down to one of three things: adoration – expressing amazement at God's infinite greatness; appreciation – thanking God for all the blessings that He's heaped upon us; or asking for assistance. As Mason's we're taught to seek the blessing of the deity before engaging in any great or important undertaking. Basically, asking God for help and the grace to recognize and submit to His will.

I'm far from having things figured out, but in my experience so far, I've found it's best to just collect my thoughts, and say what's on my mind.

I'm eternally grateful to my brothers for giving me this opportunity (or impetus) to explore my faith and try to learn to pray. I can honestly say that for all my reluctance, it has been among the most rewarding things I've ever done.

Bro. Matt Hanchek
Lodge Chaplain

FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF THE JR. STEWARD

The dictionary describes steward as; an employee who waits on and is responsible for the comfort of guests, takes orders for and distributes food. From a Masonic view it is an officer of a lodge, whose duties are to assist in providing the necessary refreshments as needed to members of a lodge. From my perspective the steward has the unique privilege of greeting every person who has chosen to attend a meeting. Brothers we have not seen in some time, traveling Brothers who know no one as their guide and official guests whose first impression of the fraternal feeling of an individual lodge may be as they come through the meal line. There are also the 'regular brothers' who come every meeting. The chance to work with the Senior Steward and the Junior Deacon is really a learning experience. Together the three of us are the official welcoming committee for each lodge meeting. Hopefully what we share with everyone is satisfying, nutritious and meets the requirement of providing the needed energy for the work of the Lodge. Thanks for the privilege of being your Junior Steward.

Bro. Don OKray

Patience



A recent conversation with a dear Brother got me waxing nostalgic. To think of the journey our Lodge has undertaken these last several years. It doesn't seem that long ago I was the new guy in Lodge. Things were much different then. We, like many other Lodges, were holding on by a thread. More in 'survival mode', than thriving.

We've all heard the old adage, patience is a virtue. In an age of fast food, drive through wedding chapels and quickie divorces, it seems patience can often be forgotten. We see this on the roadway as so many drivers are in such a rush. We also see this in the workplace, when new employees adopt an attitude of entitlement, instead of being willing to put in the time to learn and earn their status.

Masonry teaches patience in many ways. Passing through the several degrees takes many months, or even years. The fact that the Progressive Officer Line is seven years long teaches us to be patient and learn, before we can be qualified to lead. We must all labor in the quarries and prove ourselves worthy before being elevated to leadership.

There is so much to be learned. Even those who have devoted many years to our craft learn new things almost daily. I've been lucky to have many mentors during my journey and they all taught me to work hard and be patient. To observe, listen and learn before making judgments. To ask questions and seek guidance when things are not understood. That our craft has survived hundreds of years before us, and while some of the methods may seem outdated, they have withstood the test of time.

We are lucky to have many new members at Damascus who are giving extraordinary effort to better our Lodge. Sometimes we want to do it all because we are so excited by our new found love. If I can pass on any advice, it is to take time to learn and understand this wonderful fraternity. Good things should never be rushed.

I hope all of you are as pleased with our progress this year as I am. I've seen our Officer Corps working hard, not just at their labors, but working hard to learn about our craft as well. Most of our Officers are relatively new to the craft, but what they lack in experience, they are making up for in effort. I see the teamwork evolving as each learns his duties, and learns how those duties intertwine to make this 'machine' we call Damascus function. Every cog does its part, and together, we move along the path that has been laid down before us by the Supreme Architect.

It's not always an easy path, and I too, often get impatient and want us to get further along in our plan to achieve the goals we envisioned for this year. I want to be there NOW! But when I take time to sit back and see how far we've come... then I remember to be patient. Hard work, team work, and patience. These are the keys to our continued success.

See you in Lodge,

Mick Olson, Worshipful Master



NEW MASTER MASON



FISH FANS



As in days of long ago, when Lodges met in
Public Houses and Breweries...
Join Damascus No. 290 as we
Honor our Past Masters at...



*St. Francis Brewing Company
3825 S. Kinnickinnic Ave., St. Francis*

Sunday October 12, 2014
Social hour; 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm
Dinner at 5:00 pm

Cost: \$24.00

All Damascus Lodge Past Masters are our guests.

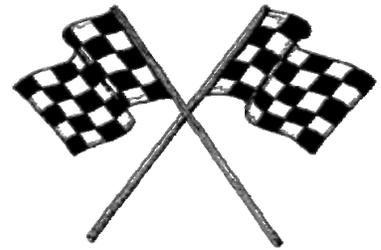
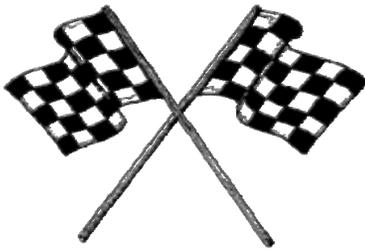
*Dinner choices: Kolsch Sirloin, BBQ Baby Back Ribs, Grilled Salmon, or
Chicken Fettucine Alfredo*

*RSVP to Bro. Don O'Kray at 414-379-1079
Deadline: October 3, 2014*



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.

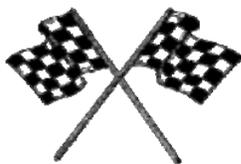
Join us for a night of Racing and Fellowship!

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 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)

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 Louis Montgomery, P.M.